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Japan

Tokyo Supports UN Conventional Arms Monitoring

OW0710145192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1440 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 7 KYODO—The government has decided to join Britain and several other countries in sponsoring a United Nations General Assembly resolution urging support for a report compiled by a UN working group on monitoring the transfer of conventional arms, officials said Wednesday.

The monitoring of weapons movements would begin by the end of April 1993 if the report is adopted this year.

The report would not be binding, but many nations see it as a first step toward the control of conventional weapons.

Japan's ambassador to the conference on disarmament, Mitsuro Donowaki, will put Japan's case for supporting the resolution at the meeting of the UN First Committee which begins Monday.

The committee deals with disarmament and related international security questions.

A UN working panel has already agreed that the supply of weapons from the United States to U.S. bases in Japan would not be defined as a "transfer of weapons."

It also decided to add mine sweepers and missile launching boats to a list of seven "weapons" for reporting which comprises tanks, armored cars, large aperture cannons, fighter planes, attack helicopters, destroyers and battleships.

Cuba refused to support the move when it was first decided to establish the system in the UN last year, while China and Vietnam did not participate in the vote.

Tokyo Envoy Hints at Easing Rice Policy 7 Oct

OW0810022992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0128 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Washington, Oct. 7 KYODO—Japan's Ambassador to the United States, Takakazu Kuriyama, hinted Wednesday [7 October] that Tokyo is prepared to ease its ban on rice imports as part of a global trade liberalization program.

"Everybody has to make a certain amount of compromise for the sake of a global economy," he said in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN). Kuriyama said Japan will address the agricultural problem under the framework of trade reform talks sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Many in Japan have come to recognize the importance of resolving the rice issue in one way or another, within the context of the GATT negotiations," he said.

The GATT talks, known as the Uruguay Round, have been stalled for more than a year, primarily over disputes about farm trade.

"We have some problems regarding agriculture, but in that sense, every country has its own problems," Kuriyama said.

Referring to Japan's recent decision to allow the import of sushi from the United States, Kuriyama said he does not know whether the move represents "a great breakthrough" on the rice issue. Japan is "in the process of globalizing our whole economy," he said. "Our market has become more open than before, and I think we are going to continue to move in that direction," he said.

The sushi controversy erupted last month after a Japanese restaurant chain, taking advantage of the lower cost of rice in the United States, imported a cargo of frozen U.S.-made sushi.

Japanese customs authorities briefly impounded the cargo, but it was eventually allowed into the country.

Miyazawa Expresses Resolution To Expand Imports

OW0810022692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0157 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday [8 October] expressed a strong resolution to further expand imports as part of efforts to rectify the swelling trade surplus, government officials said.

Miyazawa made the remarks at the 14th trade conference, which consists of relevant ministers and about 10 representatives from the private sector, the officials said.

The prime minister, who chairs the conference, stressed the need to buy more imports, as well as pursue domestic demand-driven sustainable economic growth, to cope with a recent increase in the nation's trade surplus, they said.

Japan's trade surplus had steadily decreased until fiscal 1990 after peaking in fiscal 1986. However, it jumped 62.7 percent in fiscal 1991 from the previous year to 113.7 billion dollars, hitting a record high. The figure is expected to expand further in the current fiscal year, they said.

Under the circumstances, Miyazawa stressed the importance of implementing measures embodied in the government's massive pump-priming package released late August to promote imports, they said.

They quoted Miyazawa as saying the government will make every effort to expand imports, while appealing to consumers and businesses for similar efforts.

MITI Views U.S. Moves To Expand Free Trade

OW0810073392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0653 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will keep watch for any U.S. moves to make nations other than Canada and Mexico its free trade partners, Japan's vice trade minister said Thursday.

The United States, Canada, and Mexico initialed the North American Free Trade Agreement Wednesday, and U.S. Deputy Assistant Commerce Secretary Franklin Lavin said Tuesday Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan may become U.S. free trade partners in Asia if President George Bush is reelected.

Vice MITI Minister Yuji Tanahashi said at a press conference, "We will watch with interest," while noting he was not in a position to comment because he has no idea of details of any such moves.

Tanahashi said, however, it would cause problems if the U.S. idea of expanding the number of its free trade partners excludes Japan.

Tanahashi said any regional free trade arrangements should be consistent with rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

PCB Said Found in Okinawa Base Transformers

OW0410124192 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 3 Oct 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Tokyo—On 2 October, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] announced the analysis results of the 26 transformers that have been singled out by the U.S. Forces Japan as containing PCB [polychlorinated biphenyl]. According to the announcement, PCB has been detected in insulating oil of all the 26 units, including 12 units belonging to the U.S. forces stationed in Okinawa and 14 units belonging to Iwakuni base in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Therefore, the transformer maker that supplied these units has agreed to replace them. Regarding the analysis results, the DFAA maintains that "since oil is located in sealed containers, it involves no maintenance problems." However, since it still remains unknown how PCB has been intermixed with insulating oil, and since there are still about 30 units, which the U.S. forces in Okinawa suspect of PCB contamination, that have to be checked, it is likely that both the Japanese and U.S. side will be questioned for their approach toward the maintenance work.

These transformers are installed on U.S. military bases as facilities equipment provided by the Japanese side. With regard to transformers installed on U.S. military bases in Okinawa, analysis results indicate that PCB has been detected in 12 units, including seven sent from Camp Courtney, three from Camp Hansen, and two from Futennma Airfield, with the PCB density ranging from the lowest 12 parts per million [ppm] to the highest 32 ppm, and with an average density of 25 ppm.

As for the 14 units installed on Iwakuni base, the PCB detected ranges from the lowest 6.4 ppm to the highest 40.2 ppm, with the average density of 24.1 ppm.

This was the second analysis made after the first one done in May, when the U.S. side pointed to the possibility of PCB contamination. Last time, only a very small quantity or none of PCB was detected in the three units sent from Camp Courtney and Makiminato supply zone for analysis. On the other hand, the analysis results indicate that PCB was detected in all the 13 units last time and 14 units this time of transformers sent from the Iwakuni base.

PCB is a toxic material whose production was prohibited in 1974. Therefore, it is believed that none has been put into circulation in Japan. And with regard to the fact that PCB has been detected in successive analyses, domestic transformer makers and oil makers maintain that "there are no problems in the production processes." Meanwhile, it is reported that the U.S. military has replied that there is no possibility of intermixture in the maintenance work since these transformers were installed. Thus, how PCB has got into insulating oil remains a mystery.

Moreover, it is reported that there are nearly 60 units of transformers suspected of containing PCB throughout the country, and the DFAA plans to have these units analyzed successively.

Territory-Economic Aid for Russia Link Viewed

OW0410044992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0416 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Kannami, Shizuoka Pref., Oct. 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe reiterated Japan's position Sunday [4 October] of linking economic relations with Russia to a dispute over four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido.

Addressing a national study session of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Watanabe also reiterated Japan's resolve to persistently continue negotiations with Moscow for the return of the islands.

He referred to the abrupt postponement last month of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's scheduled visit to Japan, saying, "although I did not expect the president's visit to Japan would bring about a dramatic development in Russo-Japanese relations, a complete standstill over the territorial talks is unfavorable."

The foreign minister said Tokyo "does not have any intention to harass Russia by maliciously linking the territorial dispute to full financial support."

Japan has refused to provide Russia with massive financial assistance unless the decades-long territorial dispute is settled.

The Russian president suddenly called off his trip to Japan, just a few days before the visit scheduled for September 13 to 16.

Russian Government officials reportedly blamed Japan for its "nonproductive approach" to the disputed islands off the northernmost main island of Hokkaido for partly causing the cancellation of Yeltsin's trip to Japan.

The Soviet Red Army seized the Habomai islets and the islands of Shikotan, Etorofu and Kunashiri immediately after World War II. Since then, Japan has repeatedly claimed sovereignty over the islands and the dispute has plagued bilateral diplomatic relations.

Touching on Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, the foreign minister said Japan is qualified for membership.

Yeltsin Said Not To Understand Tokyo Position

OW0810045792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Thursday that Russian President Boris Yeltsin apparently does not fully understand Japan's position on a bilateral territorial dispute.

"Our position is that if Russia recognizes our sovereignty over the four islands, we will be flexible on the timing and means of their return," Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

He was commenting on Yeltsin's statement to television reporters in Moscow on Wednesday that Japanese were voicing support for a 1956 joint agreement stipulating the return of two of the four disputed islands—Shikotan and the Habomai islets.

Yeltsin said that under such circumstances he could reschedule an aborted trip to Japan, which had been slated for mid-September.

But Kato said he did not think Yeltsin was being "fully informed" about the situation in Japan.

If Russia recognizes Japan's sovereignty over the two larger islands, Kunashiri and Etorofu, then Tokyo will take a "realistic" and elastic approach to resolving the dispute, he said.

Following Yeltsin's abrupt cancellation, Japanese officials have said they believe that the Russian president canceled his trip in part because he was being fed misinformation by aides opposed to returning the islands, seized by the Soviet Red Army at the end of World War II.

Among the Moscow rumors denied in Tokyo are that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was about to lose his grip on power, was unable to negotiate because of a national election, and was unable to receive Yeltsin's phone call announcing the postponement because Miyazawa was drunk at the time.

Kato, the top government spokesman, said the two governments are not discussing a new schedule for Yeltsin's visit. He declined further comment until he has confirmed the contents of Yeltsin's remarks.

Ministry Admits to Korean Postal Savings Survey

OW0810112992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 8 KYODO—The Posts and Telecommunications Ministry said Thursday it has a list of names of Koreans whose postal savings before and during World War II have not been returned to them.

The ministry also reversed a previous denial and formally admitted for the first time that it had investigated postal savings balances left behind by Koreans forced to work in Japan prior to and during the war.

But despite calls by citizens' groups for the payment of war reparations to Koreans, the ministry said it cannot make its findings public because its investigations indicate that much of the information is incomplete.

Classified documents revealed early in September that the government secretly investigated postal savings balances left by Koreans forced to work in Japan before and during World War II before the signing of the 1965 Japanese-South Korean basic agreement.

Under the agreement, Japan and South Korea established full diplomatic relations and Tokyo provided 500 million dollars in aid and low-interest loans to Seoul.

The government refused to pay compensation to individual Koreans conscripted as forced laborers, arguing that there was no evidence to substantiate their claims for wartime assets.

But on Thursday, the ministry's Postal Savings Bureau admitted that an investigation took place in December 1962 with information solicited from the savings sections at post offices in 28 regions around the country.

The responses from the regional offices were based on lists of names collated by January the following year relating to information on the state of the accounts.

Of these, the records for Saga Prefecture, for example, showed about 20,000 people with a total of 850,000 yen in savings.

The investigations showed that the original lists of names were dealt with separately and preserved at the local level.

Toru Asaoka, the head of the ministry's service division, said that at the time of the investigation the ministry had to know the state of the savings accounts because negotiations between Japan and South Korea were reaching a critical stage.

But Asaoka said the investigations were only partial and in some cases the distinction between Japanese and Koreans was unclear.

International Construction Forum Inaugurated

OW0610110492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1046 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 6 KYODO—An international forum to promote global cooperation in construction and preservation of the environment was inaugurated in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The forum, established in response to an appeal by the Construction Ministry, consists of diplomatic personnel stationed in Tokyo, representatives of the World Bank and Japanese public corporations.

The group will hold symposia on construction and discuss problems related to Japan's Official Development Assistance to developing nations.

About 50 diplomats from 38 developing countries in Asia and Africa attended the inaugural meeting.

Kanemaru Pressured for Scandal Responsibility

OW0710154292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1519 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 7 KYODO—Pressure on political kingpin Shin Kanemaru to take specific responsibility for his involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money scandal mounted Wednesday within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) largest faction which he himself heads, political sources said.

LDP political reform headquarters members also called on the party's top executives in a meeting to take particular measures against Kanemaru for attempting to suppress mounting criticism among party members, the sources said.

Both sides agreed that LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki should consider dealing with the Kanemaru issue.

Some party executives had expected that Kanemaru could resume his political activities as he had already shown token responsibility by resigning on August 27 as the LDP vice president, but criticism of Kanemaru has proved more enduring, they said.

Kanemaru, 78, admitted to receiving 500 million yen in illegal political funds from the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. before the February 1990 general election.

He paid a mere 200,000 yen fine last week after receiving a summary indictment on a charge of violating the political funds control law.

Kanemaru emerged from 35 days of seclusion in his Tokyo home on October 1 to resume his political activities.

The opposition camp is taking a unified stand on Kanemaru's involvement in the money scandal, demanding the LDP power broker be summoned to the Diet to testify as a sworn witness and that he resign from the Diet.

Also Wednesday, former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa withdrew his proffered resignation from the faction's No. 2 post, the sources said.

In talks with Ozawa earlier in the day, Kanemaru reportedly expressed a wish to cease acting as faction leader and Ozawa then felt himself obliged to lead the faction, they said.

On September 26, Ozawa tendered his resignation to Kanemaru as acting chairman of the LDP's largest faction, founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, saying he had not been able to "protect" Kanemaru.

Ozawa offered to quit the post one day after Kanemaru submitted to prosecutors a written statement acknowledging he took 500 million yen in illicit donations from the scandal-tainted parcel delivery firm.

At a faction meeting later in the day, Ozawa apologized for causing confusion within the faction and called on members to cooperate in his management.

Despite Ozawa's request for unity, some faction members voiced opposition to his way of handling the issue. Instability and confusion are likely to continue within the faction, the sources said.

Seiroku Kajiyama, chairman of the LDP's Diet Affairs Committee, another powerful figure in the faction and Ozawa's rival, reportedly told the meeting Ozawa "should not assume a defiant attitude over the Kanemaru issue."

"Ozawa should recognize the seriousness of the issue considering the severe views of the public and LDP members," Kajiyama reportedly said.

Other faction members asked Ozawa to consult more with the faction leaders before talking with Kanemaru in deciding on important issues.

Meanwhile, the Diet Affairs Committee held an executive meeting and discussed opposition demands that Kanemaru be summoned in the coming extraordinary Diet session slated later this month.

Kajiyama reportedly said the Diet will face a more serious situation than with the Recruit bribery scandal.

At a meeting of the House of Representatives Steering Committee, opposition parties demanded an early opening of the extraordinary Diet session in a bid to defuse the people's distrust of politics.

Cooperation Urged Among World Steel Industries

OW0510055792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0423 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 5 KYODO—Nippon Steel Corp. President Hiroshi Saito called at a meeting of the International Iron and Steel Institute (IISI) Monday for cooperation among world leaders of the steel industry to deal with global economic confusion.

Saito, who was elected Sunday as the next IISI chairman, told a second-day session of the IISI in Tokyo that the world economy is in a state of confusion following reforms in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

About 350 steel industry executives from around the globe are attending the meeting.

Brian Loton, IISI chairman and chairman of Australian steelmaking conglomerate Broken Hill Proprietary Co. (BHP), said efforts should be made to maintain an open trading system for steel, and called for resumption of the stalled negotiations on the multilateral steel arrangement.

On Sunday, IISI members approved a decision to admit steel industry associations in Poland and Romania as full members.

Protesters Demonstrate Against Nagara Project

OW0410133992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1303 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Tsu, Oct. 4 KYODO—Nearly 12,000 people demonstrated Sunday [4 October] against a dam construction project on the Nagara River in Mie Prefecture in central Japan.

The protesters held demonstrations around the site of the dam, which the government plans to finish building by March 1995.

A United States conservationist, David Brower, appealed to the participants to take more action to halt the construction and make it a symbol of a policy change in Japan.

After adopting a resolution calling for suspension of the construction, protesters traveled about three kilometers toward the dam site using about 3,000 canoes on the river.

Based on a 1964-1968 environmental impact study, the Construction Ministry began building the dam in July 1988 despite opposition from conservationists.

The Nagara, one of Japan's largest rivers, is rich in fish and plant life, some of which is regarded as rare or precious.

Nuclear-Fusion Research Cooperation Pact Signed

OW0210144992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1429 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 2 KYODO—Japan signed an implementing agreement Friday to cooperate in the development of a nuclear fusion device known as a stellarator, the government announced.

The agreement has already been signed by the United States and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), an organization formed under the European Community.

Stellarator is a device for facilitating nuclear fusion by confining a high-temperature plasma. It consists of a tube which closes in on itself in a figure-eight or race-track configuration, and external coils which generate magnetic fields whose lines of force run parallel to the walls of the tube and prevent the plasma from touching the walls.

Under the agreement, researchers from Japan, the U.S., and Euratom will exchange opinions and information on nuclear fusion technology of the helical type, government officials said.

The National Institute for Fusion Science will represent Japan in the international joint project, the officials said.

Nauru Asks Tokyo To Cancel Plutonium Shipment

OW0410112992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 4 KYODO—Nauru President Bernard Dowiyogo called on Japan Sunday [4 October] to cancel a plan to ship a ton of plutonium from Europe, and said the tiny Pacific island nation would refuse any emergency port calls by the vessel.

The shipments not only lack adequate safety precautions, but also pose a long-term security risk to the region as there are no guarantees the plutonium will never be used for nuclear weapons, Dowiyogo said at an international symposium on Japan's plutonium shipments.

"We all know that plutonium can be fashioned into atomic weapons. The present atmosphere in Japan is of course strongly opposed to such armaments, but can we say the same for 10, 20, 50 years hence?" he said at the opening of the three-day forum.

Expressing frustration that the Japanese Government has not "had the courtesy" to consult with Nauru on the shipments, the president of the 8,400-population nation said his government would not allow the ship to stop at its port should it get into difficulties.

"An accident in Nauru's only port could render our small island nation unfit for habitation for the duration of the toxicity of plutonium, literally tens of thousands of years," Dowiyogo said.

"Such an accident may be unlikely, but it cannot be excluded, especially because there could be as many as 150 shipments over a 30 year period," he said at the forum sponsored by the Citizens Nuclear Information Center and the Washington-based Nuclear Control Institute, which campaigns against plutonium proliferation.

Experts say a one-ton shipment of deadly plutonium, if it met with accident, could kill people hundreds of kilometers away.

Japan maintains that it has taken sufficient safety precautions, however, details about the shipments, including the actual route, remain a secret for security reasons.

The first shipment of plutonium recovered from spent Japanese nuclear fuel is expected to leave France for Japan later this year aboard the 3,800-ton Akatsuki Maru.

Japan's nuclear power industry plans to use 80 to 90 tons of plutonium through 2010, of which some 30 tons are to come from Europe, according to the Foreign Ministry's Nuclear Energy Division.

Governor Lorenzo Guerrero of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands urged Japan to build stronger casks for carrying the toxic plutonium, and to inform countries where the ship may make emergency calls before proceeding with shipments.

Guam Senator Marilyn Manibusan, said she was concerned that Japan's plutonium surplus could destabilize the Asia-Pacific region.

"The thought of nuclear weapons capacity frightens our people because war compensation claims have not been paid," Manibusan said, explaining that after World War II the United States, without consulting with the citizens of Guam, waived war reparations.

"We in Guam do not want to be taken for granted any more," she said.

The forum was attended by more than 100 academics, activists, and concerned citizens, as well as diplomats from 15 countries along the ship's possible route.

Jon Van Dyke, a professor at the University of Hawaii Law School, said Japan's secrecy-shrouded scheme appeared to violate its obligation under international law to inform and consult with countries along the route, and to conduct an environmental impact assessment on the risks presented by the shipments.

North Korea

Diplomatic Corps Cited on Kim Visit to Beijing

OW0810133692 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1100 GMT 8 Oct 92

[From the "News" program]

[Text] Democratic Korean President Kim Il-song and his son, who will succeed him to become head of state, will visit China in November. This was disclosed by the diplomatic corps in North Korea.

It has been learned that bilateral DPRK-PRC relations following the establishment of Beijing-Seoul diplomatic ties, and the Korean issue under the new situation will be the topics of discussion during the forthcoming trip made by the Korean leaders. China's recognition of Kim Chong-il as the successor to Kim Il-song will also be discussed, because China has been avoiding discussion of this issue.

Although Kim Il-song is still DPRK president and leader of his party, he has in fact transferred the leadership to his son.

South Urged Not To Acquire Nuclear Arms

SK0810110192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0032 GMT 8 Oct 92

[NODONG SINMUN 8 October commentary: "South Korean Authorities Must Not Develop Nuclear Weapons"]

[Text] It has been learned that the South Korean authorities have been developing nuclear weapons for a long time. This was very shocking to international public opinion. This shocking truth was disclosed by Peter Hayes, an Australian antinuclear activist. Citing scientific and actual data, he released a dissertation on this. He stated that a plan to develop nuclear weapons was mapped out in South Korea originally in the late 1960's, when puppet Pak Chong-hui was in power. A few years later, the South Korean authorities held secret talks in Europe to build a nuclear reprocessing plant. Around 1975, they acquired the capability of developing nuclear devices in nine months if they considered it necessary to do so.

The South Korean authorities, having already acquired the capability of extracting plutonium, the raw material for nuclear weapons, have produced a large amount of plutonium and have stored it. Last year alone, they extracted 1,300 kg of plutonium 239. This news causes grave worry and uneasiness in the international community.

South Korea is the U.S. imperialists' military base, and the South Korean authorities are those who execute the U.S. imperialists' nuclear maneuvers. According to the U.S. Asian strategy, they have turned South Korea into a U.S. forward nuclear base and largest nuclear depot in the Far East and have been enthusiastically carrying out the U.S. war policy.

They have extremely aggravated the situation on the Korean peninsula by staging nuclear war exercises, such as the Team Spirit exercise and the Focus Lens exercise.

Such war maniacs as the South Korean rulers have embarked on the road of directly developing nuclear weapons, and this indeed is a dangerous situation. This shows that they are nuclear maniacs who would not

hestitate to plunge fellow countrymen into a nuclear holocaust to realize their wild ambition.

The South Korean rulers have so far claimed that there are no nuclear weapons, even those belonging to the United States, in South Korea, making a declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons and the like. In spreading the fiction of the development of our nonexistent nuclear weapons, they have persistently tried to spotlight us as the nuclear defendant and to isolate us in the international community.

We have neither the intention nor the capability of developing nuclear weapons. For us, who are making every possible effort to achieve peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, there is no need whatsover to make nuclear weapons against fellow countrymen. The integrity of our nuclear plan has been more clearly proven by inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the world welcomes this.

It has been vividly revealed by the aforementioned facts that the South Korean authorities' outcries about our nuclear development are an artifice to conceal their own development of nuclear weapons. The South Korean authorities' development of nuclear weapons is a perfidious act that completely denies the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization.

For the North and the South to realize reconciliation and nonaggression and to achieve peace and denuclearization on the Korean peninsula is precisely the oath and duty that both sides of the North and the South took before the nation. In the joint declaration on denuclearization, the North and the South promised not to produce nuclear weapons.

As now revealed, however, the South Korean rulers have extracted and stockpiled plutonium, the raw material for nuclear weapons, and are accelerating their development.

The South Korean authorities have clamored that they would reserve making progress in North-South relations under the pretext of suspicions about our nuclear development and that it would be difficult to implement the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization. In particular, at the meetings of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, the South Korean authorities have created artificial obstacles to the discussions on an agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization and on inspection rules. It has become clearer that all of this is the action of those with a guilty conscience for developing nuclear weapons.

The South Korean authorities can never evade the responsibility for their violation of the North-South joint declaration on denuclearization. The South Korean authorites should immediately accept our demand for an overall nuclear inspection.

Those who are creating a nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula today are none other than the United States, which has deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea, and the South Korean authorities, who are accelerating nuclear development. Because of such schemes by the South Korean authorities, the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula has become more grave. This poses a new challenge to peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The crimes of the South Korean authorities in trying to plunge fellow countrymen into a nuclear holocaust by developing nuclear weapons cannot escape the nation's curses and condemnation.

Daily Urges South Not To Develop Nuclear Arms

SK0810055092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 8 Oct 92

["South Korean Authorities Must Not Develop Nuclear Weapons"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—It has been exposed by Australian anti-nuke activist Peter Hayes that the South Korean authorities have long since been developing nuclear weapons.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says this shocking news startling the world public caused deep concern and unrest in the international public.

According to Hayes, South Korea first planned to develop nuclear bombs in the late 1960's under the rule of Pak Chong-hui and held secret talks a few years later to import a nuclear reprocessing plant from Europe.

In 1975, South Korea was capable of producing nuclear bomb devices within nine months, if it thought necessary.

The South Korean authorities, having acquired the capability to extract plutonium, the raw material of nuclear bombs, have produced and stockpiled a large amount of it. Last year they extracted 1,300 kilograms of plutonium 239.

The news analyst says:

The South Korean rulers' development of nuclear weapons shows that they are nuclear fanatics who never hesitate to plunge the fellow countrymen into a nuclear scourge, if it is for their wild ambition.

They have so far claimed that there were no nuclear weapons, even those belonging to the U.S., in South Korea, making "a declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons."

Spreading the fiction of "development of nuclear weapons" by the North", they have persistently tried to isolate the North in the international community.

It has been proved eloquently by the aforesaid fact that the South Korean authorities' outcries over the "development of nuclear weapons" by the North were an artifice to conceal their own development of nuclear weapons.

Their development of nuclear weapons is a perfidious act totally denying the inter-Korean agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization.

The South Korean authorities can never evade the responsibility for their violation of the North-South Joint Declaration on Denuclearization.

They must immediately accept the North's demand for an overall nuclear inspection.

South Criticized for Lack of Independence

SK0810063392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0023 GMT 7 Oct 92

[NODONG SINMUN 7 October special article: "An Independent Position is Fundamental and Should Be Adhered To in Implementing the Agreement"]

[Text] The entire nation earnestly hopes that the North-South agreement can be smoothly implemented as soon as possible so that a decisive phase in the fatherland's reunification can begin after political and military confrontation have ended and so that the North and South can realize multilateral cooperation and exchange. The North-South agreement should be implemented sincerely in accordance with this nation's desire. Also, we should firmly adhere to an independent position to hasten the fatherland's reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: An independent position is fundamental and should be firmly adhered to in implementing the North-South agreement and realizing the fatherland's reunification.

An independent position is fundamental and should be unchangeably and firmly adhered to in implementing the North-South agreement and solving all problems that emerge in achieving the fatherland's reunification.

Our country's division was not born out of the nation's internal factors, but was forced upon us by outside forces. There is no internal reason for the Korean people, who lived as a homogeneous nation for thousands of years, to now be divided. Because of the interference and obstruction by outside forces, our nation is still divided and has not achieved reunification.

Under whatever circumstances, our nation should put an end to the division that was brought about by outside forces. Our people's struggle to achieve the fatherland's reunification is also a struggle to end domination and interference by outside forces and to realize national independence. Therefore, an independent position becomes the starting point in the struggle for the fatherland's reunification.

An independent position is behind the basic spirit of the historic North-South agreement, and adhering to it is an indispensable demand in correctly implementing the agreement. Through the agreement the North and South solemnly promised the nation to resolve the reunification issue with its independent strength. This conforms with the trend of the times which is a move toward the road to independence.

The magnificent agreement, which conforms completely with the nation's desire and demand for reunification between the North and South, was adopted and put into effect. It was possible to achieve this because it stemmed from the principle of national independence. How much great vitality this will manifest in opening the door for the fatherland's reunification in the future depends on how the North and the South adhere to the principle of national independence.

Because the North and South reconfirmed the principle of national independence before the nation through the agreement, both adopt the position of resolving the issues of the country's peace and reunification through the strength of national independence. If either party concerned about reunification breaks away from an independent position, the North-South agreement cannot be correctly implemented.

With the country divided into the North and the South, if either side depends on outside forces and allows interference by outside forces, it takes an attitude of confrontation with fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces. This is not a position with which to achieve reunification. The lesson from history is that if a party to reunification throws away independence and moves toward dependence on outside forces, it is not possible to reach an agreement between the North and South even though it is a good agreement.

In the early 1970's, the 4 July North-South joint statement based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity was adopted. Nevertheless, it was not linked to reunification because the South Korean authorities turned around and conspired with outside forces and pursued confrontation, regarding fellow countrymen as enemies. This kind of unworthy history should not be repeated.

Because the North and the South vowed before the nation to achieve the fatherland's reunification by uniting their strength, they should take a firm independent position and sincerely implement the North-South agreement.

Important to maintaining an independent position is to give up the incorrect concepts of cooperating with outside forces and attaching importance to dependence on outside forces, which lead to confrontation rather than unity with fellow countrymen, and to continue trusting fellow countrymen and relying on the force of national independence. If one confronts fellow countrymen, rather than trusting and uniting with them, and depends on outside forces, the ringleader of national division, instead of depending on the force of national independence, one commits national treachery.

If one loses independence and depends on outside forces, one can never properly resolve the issue within the

nation, nor can one prevent outside forces from interfering with the national destiny. If one attempts to depend on outside forces and live under their protection, one cannot free oneself from the interference of outside forces. One cannot help but try to read the outside forces' mind and feel hampered in implementing the North-South agreement.

Depending on outside forces leads to division and the country's ruin. National independence is the only way to reunification and patriotism. The North and the South should discard the old distrust and confrontation, treasure unity with fellow countrymen, and solve all problems from the standpoint of national unity. Our party and the government of the republic, which have considered independence the life of the nation and thoroughly maintained an independent position in revolution and construction, are firmly maintaining an independent position in implementing the North-South agreement as well and will continue to do so.

The South Korean authorities have been creating artificial difficulties and obstacles to implementing the agreement by depending on foreign forces and continuously allowing the foreign forces to interfere, contradicting their agreement to resolve the issue of national reunification by the strength of national independence. With the United States manipulating behind the scenes, they made an issue of our nonexistent nuclear weapons development, openly stated that they will postpone implementing the agreement, and said that no progress is anticipated in North-South relations unless this issue is resolved. Embellishing the U.S. Forces in South Korea as a war deterrent, they are begging for their perpetual occupation.

The South Korean authorities and the United States even conducted various frenzied war rehearsals against the fellow countrymen, such as the aggressive Focus Lens joint military exercise. They openly state that they will resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year. They are also viciously increasing the suppression of patriotic people who are struggling for independent and peaceful reunification.

These acts of the South Korean authorities, who flatter and submit to foreign forces and dance to their tune totally contradict the spirit of the North-South agreement to resolve the issue of peace and reunification through the nation's independent efforts in conformity with the nation's will and aspiration.

The South Korean authorities should give up the policy of depending on outside forces and adopt the position of national independence, highly valuing their own nation and depending on the force of national independence.

With the institutions to implement the North-South agreement having been inaugurated, with the annexed agreements having been adopted and effectuated, and with the prevailing situation having undergone great change, the United States no longer needs to maintain its forces and military bases in South Korea. The South Korean authorities should decide, in conformity with the spirit of the North-South agreement, to have the U.S. Forces withdrawn and their military bases in South Korea dismantled. They should completely and totally stop the military exercises they conduct jointly with the United States.

At the same time, they should not suppress the patriotic people who are struggling to oppose the interference of foreign forces and to reunify the country independently, but actively support and encourage them.

The reunification of the country can never be realized by depending on foreign forces, the ringleaders of national division. Reunification can only be realized by depending on the force of national independence. If the North and the South firmly maintain an independent position and faithfully implement the North-South agreement, the reunification of the country in the 1990's will certainly be realized, something to which the entire fellow countrymen look forward.

Daily Criticizes Reliance on 'Outside Forces'

SK0710131092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 9 Oct 92

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Implementing North-South Agreement From Independent Stand"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 7 (KCNA)—In order to honestly implement the North-South agreement and promote national reunification in conformity with the desire of the nation, it is imperative to adhere to the independent stand, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

What is important at present in maintaining the independent stand is to discard the wrong thinking pattern of seeking confrontation with fellow countrymen, attaching greater importance to dependence on outside forces than unity with fellow countrymen, believe in the fellow countrymen, and take a stand of relying on the national independent forces.

Dependence on outside forces leads to division and the ruin of the country and national independence is the only way of reunification and patriotism.

The North and the South must discard the old thinking pattern of distrust and confrontation, value unity with fellow countrymen and solve everything in view of national unity.

Our party and the government of our Republic which have strictly maintained the independent stand in the revolution and construction, regarding independence as the life and soul of the nation, are maintaining and will maintain firmly the independent stand in implementing the North-South agreement, too.

However, contrary to the agreement to solve the question of national reunification by the efforts of the nation

itself, the South Korean authorities have intentionally created difficulties and obstacles in the way of the implementation of the agreement by continually relying on the strength of outside forces and allowing foreign interference.

Their acts of dancing to the tune of outside forces, kowtowing to them, diametrically run counter to the spirit of the North-South agreement for solving the question of peace and reunification of the country by the efforts of the nation itself according to its will and desire.

The South Korean authorities must set greater store by the nation and turn to the stand of national independence, the stand of relying on the forces for national independence, instead of sticking to the policy of dependence on outside forces.

They, in the spirit of the agreement, must take a bold decision to get the U.S. troops and their military bases withdrawn from South Korea and completely and totally discontinue joint military exercises with the United States.

Vigilance Against U.S. 'War Moves' Urged

SK0710144092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "Alarming Military Moves"]

[Text] A very alarming situation is being created on the Korean Peninsula. As is known, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities recently held a criminal conference in Seoul to strengthen the U.S.-South Korean Combined Forces Command and to further prompt preparations for a northward war. They decided to establish the South Korean-U.S. Combined Marine Forces Command.

Timed to coincide with this, for the first time in Asia, the U.S. imperialists deployed the U.S. Navy's Belleau Wood attack landing craft in Japan's Sasebo Base for actual combat purposes. After stating that the large Belleau Wood attack ship is deployed in Asia for the first time, they added that Sasebo has become a port for supporting an attack from the rear.

Meanwhile, northward invasion war exercises and air espionage activities against us have been viciously conducted in South Korea. How frantically the rascals are running wild in maneuvers to attack the North is well demonstrated by the fact that as many as 1,100 military planes were mobilized for air war exercises over South Korea on 1 and 2 October and by the fact that 210 acts of air espionage were conducted in September alone.

The fact that aggressive armed forces have been concentrated on South Korea and its neighboring areas and that war exercises to attack the North have been viciously conducted in South Korea are very alarming military moves. This shows that rascals' spearhead is directed at the northern half of the Republic and that the preparations for a northward invasion have been promoted on a very dangerous level. This is not only a vicious challenge to us who desire peace and reunification, but also an unpardonable crime.

Because of the reckless war moves by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers, the situation on the Korean peninsula is becoming more tense as the days pass. Worse still, the danger of war is growing in our country.

As everyone knows, the North and the South, which had stood in confrontation for tens of years, confirmed that they would ease the political and military confrontation and that they would not invade each other. At the eighth round of the North-South high-level talks held some time ago, annexed agreements to implement the North-South agreement were adopted and validated. In addition, joint committees for each realm were formed.

Nonetheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have taken the road to deliberately aggravate the situation. This shows that, even though they are babbling about peace and the relaxation of tension, they do not want peace or the tension to relax on the Korean peninsula.

Even though times have changed, the aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities has not changed. The rascals still have not discarded the confrontational concept of a bygone era. They are unfailingly trying to realize their desire of invading the North. However, this is an anachronistic delusion. War and peace can never coexist.

All the fellow countrymen in the North and the South want peace, not war. They do not want confrontation, but national reconciliation and reunification. The U.S. imperialists' and the South Korean rulers' reckless war moves to return the situation to the past confrontation go against our nation's desire and enthusiasm, and their efforts to ignite a war can never be tolerated. Our people are keenly watching the rascals' maneuvers to stir up a new war with high vigilance. The United States should look straight at the changing situation, give up its hostile policy against us, and withdraw the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea. The South Korean authorities should discard antinational and antipeace maneuvers to harm the same nation in collaboration with aggressors. If the rascals continue to aggravate the situation and create the danger of war, they will be more greatly denounced and rejected as peace destroyers and warmongers by the world's people.

'Crackdown' on Union in South Denounced

SK0810054692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 8 Oct 92

["Massive Protest Fully Justifiable"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today hits out at the crackdown on the union of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) of South Korea by the rulers.

Commenting on the vehement struggle launched by the labor and public circles all over South Korea in solidarity with the righteous action of the MBC unionists, the analyst says:

This is only too natural. The demand and slogan of the MBC unionists on strike are the democratisation of broadcasting and guarantee of the freedom of the press and a stop to the authorities' scheme to reduce broadcasting to their pliable tool. This demand must be met.

The South Korean authorities, however, cracked down on the MBC union leaders and members by throwing a large police force against them. This is another indication that South Korea is a society under truculent military dictatorship where the elementary freedom and democracy are tabooed. The MBC union, as it has decided, will not stop its struggle for the freedom of the press and a democratic and fair broadcasting, however harsh the repression may be, and the struggle of the people of various strata supporting it will grow fiercer, declares the commentary.

* Imperialist Life-Style Threatens Youth

922C0227A Pyongyang NODONG CHONGNYON in Korean 9 Jul 92 p 2

[Article by Pak U-chon: "Imperialists' Bourgeois Life-Style Is a Poison That Spoils Our Youth"]

[Text] Our youth today are successfully materializing the demand of the socialist life style in every aspect of their lives, including the working, material, cultural and moral.

This well reveals the revolutionary life style of the Korean youth. We should not be satisfied with the current status, but should continuously put our efforts more thoroughly into establishing the socialist life style, however.

Our dear leader, comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"The imperialists and reactionaries are viciously scheming to spread the reactionary ideology and culture and corrupt life style in order to divide and disintegrate our nation from the inside, which is marching forward, raising the socialist banner on high."

The imperialists, including the U.S., are tenaciously pursuing their ideological and cultural invasions in order to disintegrate the socialist countries from the inside, while reinforcing the anti-socialist maneuvers more than ever in an effort to destroy socialism and to reverse history.

The major emphasis of the ideological and cultural invasion by these imperialists is to spread the corrupt bourgeois life style.

Reactionaries of imperialism are viciously maneuvering to implant the bourgeois life style in the heart of socialist countries by means of pro-government and cultural propaganda, especially through publications such as newspapers and pictorial magazines, broadcasts, and video tapes. After they disintegrated and changed some of the socialist nations through ideological and cultural invasions, the imperialists, including the U.S., grew arrogant and have been trying to apply their cunning tactics toward revolutionary nations such as ours. They are aiming at the youths when they invade and spread bourgeois ideology and culture.

The bourgeois life style that the imperialists are madly spreading is a very dangerous poison that changes people, especially the youth, and makes them psychologically crippled.

Because of their psychological characteristics, youths are very curious about everything that is happening around them. They are especially sensitive to new things.

Youths are lacking in political views and the capability to distinguish what is right from wrong, since their view of the world is still in a formative stage. Therefore, unless those, who have not yet experienced ordeals and do not yet have a firm revolutionary view of the world, diligently undergo ideological training, they cannot correctly judge the reactionary characteristics of the bourgeois life style and will tend to be easily contaminated.

For example, youths can be contaminated by the "freedom of individuality," bourgeois sophism, that the imperialists are promoting, by misunderstanding that kind of life style as a good one without the proper knowledge of its fundamental nature. It is parallel to the case where those who are not immune easily get sick and suffer from diseases more than healthy people.

The bourgeois life style is a harmful poison that can more easily infect youths than anybody else, just as germs can easily infect people without immunization.

Another reason why the bourgeois life style is a poison that changes youths is that it is immoral and spoils the spiritual and moral life of youths.

The bourgeois life style is like poisonous mushrooms. Once the poison invades the youths' life, it spoils their pure and healthy ideology and spirit.

In general, life style refers to the way people carry out their daily lives and activities. In an individual society, there is a unique life style that suits the people of that society. The socialist life style is a way of activities of the people who struggle for socialism and communism and who are involved in revolution. It is also a collectivist life style of socialist workers who struggle for a better life for everyone and is a revolutionary and lofty life style.

The bourgeois life style, on the other hand, is a corrupt life style of the bourgeois society, based on the capitalist ideology. It is a bourgeois, abnormal, and corrupt life

style that only pursues self-interests, desires, and pleasures and is an extremely egoistic life style.

A typical example of the bourgeois life style is the American one. The American life style is the dirtiest and most corrupt life style in modern days, one that is spreading all over the world.

The American life style, first of all, is the one where people hate each other and consider it a virtue that the strong takes advantage of the weak, according to the principle of the jungle that is prevalent in capitalist society. It is an extreme egoism based on the principle that money is almighty and that they can do anything for money.

Therefore, the American life style is such that for money they do not hesitate to venture, kill, and rob. This life style even encourages people to kill wives and husbands, and even parents and children if for the sake of money. The main theme of this corrupt life style is after all hatred of people, barbarianism, greed, and robbery.

The American life style is also extreme liberalism. People only try to live the easy way and seek pleasure, tending to be sexually-oriented with vulgar hobbies, vanity, and dissipation.

This tells us that the bourgeois life style is in principle the most reactionary and corrupt life style and trend that has nothing to do with the people's healthy life style.

The bourgeois life style is currently beautified under the guise of the so-called "civilization" in the most corrupt societies of the U.S., Japan, and South Korea. This makes the people, especially youths, psychologically and morally crippled.

Once such a demoral life style and trend invades the youths, serious harmful effects show up not only in the ideological and moral standards but also in the social life as a whole.

The bourgeois life style, most of all, transforms the youths into extreme liberalists who do not like the political and organizational life.

The bourgeois life style is an individualistic and liberal life style. It is also a self-centered life style, where society and revolution, and group and organization are not of any concern. Once people are spoiled by the brougeois liberalism, they want freedom without principle. This in turn makes the youth dislike an organizational life style, consider the guidance and control of an organization to be a burden, and also dislike a disciplined way of life. It also makes the youths turn away from politics, and to be indifferent of political life; It furthermore openly violates the law and social order, thus turning them into hoodlums who act in an uncontrolled manner.

The bourgeois life style also transforms the youths into ugly human beings who are interested only in money and materials, and would do anything for them.

The bourgeois life style is a life style that reflects the views that "gold is almighty," "the strong eats the weak," and one that is greedy. It is the bourgeois life style that feeds one by robbing others for money and materials.

Such a life style makes the youths greedy for money and material. It makes the youths betray their country and their people for money; abandon basic their sense of honor, moral, and conscience; and also commit crimes without any hesitation. The evil of the bourgeois life style is well manifested by the youth of exploiting societies, including the U.S. and South Korea, by openly committing murders and robberies, even killing their parents for money.

It is the harmful effect of the bourgeois life style that transforms the youths into low human beings, who know nothing but money, and are slaves of money and material.

The bourgeois life style also carries a poison that makes the youths easy-going, loose, lazy, pleasure-seeking and ostentatious

The bourgeois life style is an extremely easygoing, loose, sexually-oriented, and abnormal life style. Such a life style paralyzes the healthy spirit of the youths, makes them ignorant and indulge in animalistic hobbies filled with immorality and corruption.

Once the youth is contaminated by the bourgeois life style, they tend to waste their precious time being easygoing and lazy, instead of working hard and making their lives worthwhile. They also tend to destroy the moral and healthy atmosphere, and to corrupt public morals and rules of etiquette rather than their abidance.

Furthermore, once the youth get used to the bourgeois life style, they tend to like lazy movies, novels, and art pieces that are lazy and sexually-oriented, immoral songs and dances; disrupt the scenic beauty and good street atmosphere by wearing weird clothes and wearing abnormal make-ups; needlessly waste money on ceremonial occasions; and entertain a superstitious belief.

The bourgeois life style is a very harmful poison that pollutes the lives of youths with an anti-socialistic and corrupt life style in every aspect of political, ideological, materialistic, cultural, and moral life of the youths.

We cannot think of a healthy spiritual and moral development of youth and a spirit of revolutionary life without struggling to prevent the bourgeois life style, that imperialists are currently spreading, from invading the youths.

Our youth should deeply realize that they have an honorable responsibility and duty to strongly defend and enhance the socialism of our own style centered around the people's mass. They should strongly carry out the struggle to prevent the invasion of the bourgeois life style that the imperialists are currently spreading.

We, therefore, have to strongly defend and enhance the most superior socialism of our own style by thoroughly

preventing the invasion of the bourgeois life style and by firmly establishing a revolutionary life style and socialist life spirit.

DPRK, Cuba Sign Legal Assistance Treaty

SK0810113292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—A treaty on mutual legal assistance in civil, family, and criminal cases and a consular agreement between the DPRK and the Republic of Cuba was signed here today.

They were signed by the director of the Consular Department of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by the director of the Judicial Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba.

Kim Il-song Receives Irish Communist Leader

SK0710131792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 7 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Michael O'Riordan, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland, on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], and Kim Hyong-u, vice director of a department or the C.C., WPK.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with the guest in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

He arranged a luncheon for the chairman.

Kim Tal-hyon Meets With South Korean Businessmen

SK0810055292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier and chairman of the State External Economy Commission, met with South Korean businessmen at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Wednesday and conversed with them in an atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

Yi Song-nok, chairman of the Korean Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, and Chong Un-op, director of the Samcholli General Corporation, were on hand. The businessmen arrived here Tuesday.

Japanese Social-Democratic Delegation Arrives

SK0310112892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 3 (KCNA)—A delegation of the committee for measures on the Korean affairs of the Social-Democratic Party of Japan headed by Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Noboru Baba, vice-chairman of the committee, arrived here today.

The guests were met at the airport by Vice-director of a department of C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] Kim Yang-kon.

A visiting group of Tottori prefectural people for Japan-Korea friendship led by Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Kogen Nosaka, vice-chairman of the Dietmen's league for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship, arrived here Friday by plane.

Kim Yong-sun Meets Visiting Japanese

SK0610070092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 6 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, met and had a friendly conversation Monday with principal members of a visiting group of Tottori prefectural people for Japan-Korea friendship led by Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives Kogen Nosaka, vice-chairman of the Dietmen's league for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship.

O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, was on hand.

U.S. Asia Society Delegation Arrives 3 Oct

SK0410101192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0826 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 4 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Asia Society of the United States headed by Robert Scalapino, its director and honorary professor of California University, arrived here Saturday by plane.

Kang Sok-chu Meets Asia Society Delegation

SK0510111592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 5 (KCNA)—First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu today met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Asia Society of the United States headed by Robert Scalapino, its director and honorary professor of California University.

Foreign Ministers Discuss Korean Reunification

SK0810111092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—Foreign ministers of Nepal, Syria, and Jordan, the minister of external relations of Mali, and ministers of foreign affairs and cooperation of Guinea and Mauritania, speaking at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, hoped that all the talks between the North and the South of Korea

would contribute to the realization of the cause of reunification of the country, the national desire of the Korean people.

They expressed full support to the Korean people in their struggle to accomplish the cause of national reunification in a peaceful way.

TV Broadcasting Agreement Signed With Ecuador

SK0810050892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—An agreement on mutual cooperation between the general bureau of TV broadcasting of the DPRK radio and TV broadcasting committee and the Ecuadorian TV station "Tele Andina 23" was signed in Pyongyang Wednesday.

It was signed by Cha Sung-su, vice-chairman of the DPRK radio and TV broadcasting committee and director of the general bureau of TV broadcasting, and Nelson Humberto Ortiz Rea, general manager of the Ecuadorian Tv station "Tele Andina 23".

Headquarters of Reunification Group Meets

SK0710130692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 7 (KCNA)—A meeting of the Presidium of the North side's headquarters of the Pan-National Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) was held here Tuesday [6 October].

The meeting discussed the question of further expanding and strengthening the driving force of national reunification, while maintaining close ties with the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), on the basis of Pomchonghaknyon which was formed as an umbrella body of the youth and students in the North, the South and overseas on August 15 and make the youth and students play the vanguard role in accomplishing the cause of reunification in the 1990s.

It comprehensively discussed practical matters arising in implementing the joint resolution adopted at the third pan-national rally and decided to take appropriate measures.

It strongly denounced the unreasonable and anti-reunification acts of the South Korean authorities in harshly suppressing the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), branding it as an illegal organisation. It also discussed questions of actively supporting and encouraging the South Korean youth and students in the struggle to have Pomchonghaknyon legalized and conducting more briskly a solidarity movement with the South side and overseas side of Pomchonghaknyon and decided to take necessary steps.

The meeting also discussed the opening of the first meeting of joint presidium, the composition of the promotion committee of Yim Su-kyong reunification literary prize, and a series of measures to inform the broad international community of the formation of Pomchonghaknyon and its activities and win its support and solidarity.

Tunisian Envoy Meets Foreign Affairs Official

SK0810054892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—Kang Sok-chu, first vice- minister of foreign affairs, Wednesday met and conversed with Mohamed Habib Kaabachi, newly appointed ambassador of Tunisia to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Ambassadors Appointed to Portugal, Lebanon

SK0810051592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—Hwang Kwon-chong and Yi Yong-sop were appointed as DPRK ambassadors E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] respectively to Portugal and Lebanon, according to a decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee.

Industrial, Agricultural Output of Province Grows

SK0710214092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 7 (KCNA)—Yangdok County, South Pyongan Province, situated in the central inland of Korea has taken on new looks.

Mountains cover about 84 percent of the area of the county. Before the liberation of the country, it was a barren land unfit for human habitation.

After the liberation, the county has turned into a paradise with a developed agriculture and modern local industry and mining industry under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

During his on-the-spot guidance to Unha-ri, Yangdok County, in the autumn of 1947, President Kim Il-song instructed that the grain output should be increased by fertilizing the land in conformity with the specific conditions of the mountainous area and that the people's living standard be improved evenly by making comprehensive use of mountains.

Afterwards, he indicated the orientation and way to be followed by the county several times.

The county which did not have a single industrial facility at the time of the liberation has now nearly 30 local industrial factories such as modernly-equipped wood-working factory, textile mill, and foodstuff factory. The factories turn out 2,150 kinds of good-quality consumer goods in large quantities.

Most popular among them are canned wild fruits, canned mushroom, processed wild vegetables, soft drinks made of wild fruits, and furniture.

Many of them are more than enough to meet the county's needs, so they are sent to neighbouring cities and counties.

Foodstuffs are well received on foreign markets.

The gross industrial output value of the county has jumped 430 times in 45 years.

The local industry of the county has a vast prospect as it relies on its own raw material resources.

The county has in recent years created 3,700 hectares of forests of economic value and 41,000 hectares of timber forests and several hundred hectares of land for cultivating raw materials so as to supply the local industrial factories with sufficient raw materials.

A rapid progress has been made in agriculture.

Bumper crops are gathered every year in the rural districts of the county where irrigation and electrification have been completed and comprehensive mechanization and extensive use of chemicals have entered the stage of completion.

The irrigation facilities of the county have expanded 66 times and the irrigated area 30.6 times as against 1946. In this period, the grain output has risen five times, the production of meat and eggs 12 times and that of cocoons five times.

A great progress has been made in education, culture, and health service.

The county has nearly 30 schools of different levels and tens of medical, recuperation and rest centres including three modern hospitals, six sanatoria and holiday homes.

KCNA Reviews 8 Oct Pyongyang Press

SK0810060592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang October 8 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received Michael O'Riordan, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland.

President Kim Il-song's reminiscences "With the Century" and his immortal classical works have been reported and deeply studied abroad, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that a message of condolence came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the death of So Chol.

An article of the paper stresses that the high authority and dignity of the party is the source of universal trust of our people in the party.

Econews of the press includes reports about innovation in the production of mining equipment, coal, power and chemical fertilizers and about the acceleration of rice harvesting in countryside.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that the general secretary of the Central American United Party met the Korean ambassador to Nicaragua. It gives an account of a performance of the State Pyongyang Circus in the Netherlands.

Papers inform the readers of a meeting of the Presidium of the North side's headquarters of the Pan-national Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification [Pomchonghaknyon] held in Pyongyang.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN says that the struggle of the union of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation of South Korea against the conversion of broadcasting into a government mouthpiece and for its democratization and the struggle of the labour and public circles for powerful solidarity with it is fully justifiable. Another commentary of the paper denounces the South Korean authorities who have long since been developing nuclear weapons.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that the South Korean Christian Youth Council vowed to launch a supervisory movement for a fair election, the South Korean authorities are running wild in arms buildup behind the curtain of the dialogue for reunification, South Korean publications exposed the fact that it was the U.S. imperialists who provoked the Korean war and the barbarity of the Japanese imperialist aggressors in eating human flesh during the Second World War.

Carried in NODONG SINMUN is an article laying bare the injustice and anti-popular nature of the "total wage system" introduced by the South Korean authorities.

It is reported in the press that statements were issued in different countries in support of the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, the Congolese radio published an article on old man Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, and Social-Democratic member of the House of Representatives of Japan Kogen Nosaka, vice-chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, demanded that the Japanese Government repent of and compensate for its past crimes.

The press carries words of foreign ministers at the 47th UN General Assembly supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

More than 130 communist, workers' and other progressive parties of the world have signed the Pyongyang Declaration, expressing their resolution to act in its spirit, says NODONG SINMUN.

World news of the press includes reports that the Indonesian president spoke about the independent development of the country and the Mongolian prime minister said the domestic socio-economic situation had reached a point of crisis.

Papers dedicate articles to the 25th anniversary of the death of Ernesto Che Guevara, an internationalist soldier. NODONG SINMUN in an article says that imperialism is not a "friend" of the developing countries but a plunderer.

South Korea

Assembly Approves Appointment of Prime Minister

SK0810081992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0741 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u began to select members of his "politically neutral cabinet" Thursday after the National Assembly approved his appointment of Hyon Sung-chong as prime minister earlier in the day.

The Assembly, in a hastily called plenary session, approved Hyon's appointment by 266 votes to nine with one abstention and one invalid ballot. Of the Assembly's 299 lawmakers, 277 were present for the vote.

After obtaining parliamentary approval for his choice of an "impartial" prime minister, No handed Hyon his credentials at Chongwadae [presidential residence] before they sat down to decide who to put in the five cabinet posts concerned with elections.

Four are the ministers of home affairs, justice, and information and the first state minister for political affairs, and the fifth is the director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP]. The president alone will decide who to put in charge of the NSP, the sources said.

No is expected to finish his selection Friday, but he was said to be experiencing difficulty choosing four new cabinet ministers with no experience in politics and who are regarded by all political parties as "neutral."

As for the director of the NSP, No was reportedly able to obtain the understanding of the leaders of the three political parties on retaining Yi Sang-yon. But since that time the Democratic Party and certain politicians have begun demanding Yi be replaced because of his involvement in government interference in the March 24 general elections in Yongi County in South Chungchong Province.

In the event that No decides to replace Yi, former Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung and An Ung-mo, a former home affairs minister, are likely candidates for the job, the sources said.

For the post of the home affairs minister, Kim Chang-sik, a former transportation minister, and Chun Suk-hong, a former head of the Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency, are mentioned.

Former Supreme Court Justice Yi Myong-hui is being considered for the justice portfolio, while journalists Kim Tong-ik and Sin Tong-ho are regarded as possibilities for information minister, the sources said.

President No has also considered replacing his communications and construction ministers, who were expected to take responsibility for disasters or accidents like the collapse of a Han River bridge under construction last summer.

But No has decided against replacing them because there are only four more months left to go for his administration.

Hyon Sung-chong on Fair Elections

SK0710120892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1124 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 7 (YONHAP)—New acting Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong said Wednesday he had decided to join the cabinet because he thought it is proper for him to help realize fair election after he learned of the strong intention of President No Tae-u to form a neutral cabinet to ensure election fairness.

In a press conference upon his appointment, Hyon said the new cabinet members to be named in the upcoming cabinet reshuffle should be those fully able to manage election fairness in conformity with the president's intent.

The educator-turned new premier said that since the new cabinet should be neutral in nature in the first place, he plans to recommend as new cabinet members those who, with exceptional confidence, would be able to handle fairly and efficiently not only election programs but other routine affairs as well.

"A neutral cabinet is supposed to manage election impartially among all political parties. President No told me that the government would firmly deal with any party that violates elections laws," he said.

With regard to the issue of institutional devices to operate a neutral cabinet, Hyon said, "I think it is important to abide by the existing election laws. If there is any found not proper, we will rectify it taking into account views from the election management committee and public opinion.

Asked about the recent revelation of local offices' meddling in [the] election, the acting premier said, "if the cabient sides with the Democratic Liberal Party, cabinet neutrality itself cannot exist."

He said he, therefore, believes there would be no recurrence of election meddling by any public offices. "If there is any meddling, I, as the head of the cabinet, would take firm steps against it," he said.

Democratic Liberal Party Welcomes Hyon

SK0710123692 Seoul YONHAP in English 1157 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 7 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Liberal Party Wednesday welcomed the appointment of Hyon Sung-chong as acting prime minister.

In a comment, party spokesman Pak Hui-tae said his party welcomes the appointment of Hyon who he said has lofty character and high learning and virtue.

"Acting prime minister Hyon should make such a recommendation to the president as to form a confident cabinet able to manage the upcoming election fairly and to ensure the continuity of state affairs," Pak said.

Former Prime Minister on Reshuffle

SK0710121092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1147 GMT 9 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 7 (YONHAP)—Outgoing Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said Wednesday that since he is much tired, he would take a rest for the time being.

"But, if I would be given an opportunity to further serve the country and nation, I won't totally rule out its acceptance," Chong told reporters.

Recalling that he attended South-North prime ministers meeting with the thought of forestalling the recurrence of war by all means, Chong said he believes one of his biggest achievements was to install a military hotline to prevent the escalation of any inadvertent military clashes.

He said he didn't regard himself as a scapegoat. "For the president was obliged to effect a cabinet reshuffle as a final measure of his June 29 declaration," he said.

Chong expressed the hope that the cabinet reshuffle would serve to revert the difficult political situation back to normalcy.

No's Cabinet Still Consists of DLP Members

SK0810050192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—Four ministers and one vice minister still belong to the Democratic Liberal Party just a day before a neutral cabinet is to be formed, the Government Administration Ministry said Thursday.

They are Deputy Prime Ministers Choe Kak-kyu and Choe Yong-chol, First State Minister for Political Affairs Kim Chong-ho, Information Minister Son Chu-hwan and Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap- su.

Labor Affairs Minister Yi Yon-taek and agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kang Hyon-uk have left the DLP. And the two deputy prime ministers are to leave Thursday or Friday.

'Parliamentary Cabinet System' Rejected

SK0810075692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0630 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Party flatly rejected Thursday a demand by the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] for a parliamentary cabinet system as "anachronistic thinking."

"The re-emergence in the Democratic Liberal Party of arguments about constitutional revision in favor of a parliametary cabinet system two months before the presidential election was brought on by a power struggle within the party," Chief Vice Spokesman Pak Chi-won said. "That's irresponsible conduct, causing chaos among the people and in the political circle.

"What the political circle must do right now is to release the people from fear by conducting predictable politics and to fairly carry out the presidential election."

The presidential system was the faith of the Democratic Party, he said, adding that party leader Kim Tae-chung had made no mention of arguments within the DLP over constitutional reform.

Kim Yong-sam Seeks To Stop DPL 'Downward Slide'

SK0610094692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0808 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 6 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, president of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and its presidential candidate, worked hard Tuesday to put the brakes on the party's downward slide following the departure from its ranks Monday of President No Tae-u.

Kim was to meet with Pak Tae-chun in his continuing effort to persuade the party chairman to take over the chairmanship of the election campaign committee amid persistent rumors that Pak was about to follow No out of the party.

Pak was reported earlier to have decided to resign as chairman of both the Pohang Iron and Steel Co. [POSCO] and the Democratic Liberal Party, to become "a plain ordinary" representative in the National Assembly.

Pak also reportedly turned down an earlier request by Kim Yong-sam to head the party's campaign committee.

If Kim succeeds in persuading Pak to manage his campaign on the second attempt, the DLP will go ahead and form the committee and put the party into "an election campaign mode."

Rep. Kim Ki-pae and some 32 other heads of DLP district chapters also met Tuesday morning and adopted a resolution urging Pak to accept the chairmanship of the campaign committee.

Meanwhile, Choe Chae-uk, Pak's chief secretary, said the DLP chairman had not rejected a proposal he become chairman of the campaign committee. Pak had said that he would resign only from Pohang Iron and Steel, Choe said.

As if to underscore Choe's remark, Pak attended a senior party officials meeting chaired by Kim Yong-sam on Tuesday morning.

Earlier, Kim Yong-sam met with reporters and complained that they were resorting to "speculative reporting" with regard to Pak's refusal to take over command of his election campaign.

But one highly placed DLP official told reporters that it was true Pak had seriously contemplated resigning not only from the chairmanship of POSCO but also retiring from active political life .

His resolution seems to be wavering, however, since he met with President No on the occasion of lighting the No. 4 blast furnace in Kwangyang, South Cholla Province, last Friday. Pak also met with Kim Yong-sam on Sunday.

The DLP official, who declined to be identified by name, hinted that there was a possibility that Pak would eventually become Kim Yong-sam's top campaign manager.

In a separate development, floor leaders of three political parties in the National Assembly agreed Tuesday to undertake parliamentary inspections on four local governing bodies. They are the special cities of Seoul and Pusan and the two provincial governments of South Chungchong and South Cholla.

The floor leaders further agreed that the Health and Social Affairs committee will conduct an inspection on the city of Seoul, the Transportation and Communications Committee on the city of Pusan, the Home Affairs Committee on South Chungchong Province, and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Committee on South Cholla Province.

The question of whether to hold parliamentary inspections of local governments was feared to become a stumbling block for the just-resumed regular session of the National Assembly.

The Democratic Liberal Party had said it would oppose any parliamentary inspections of local governments as demanded by the opposition parties. But in a major change of policy, the DLP decided Tuesday morning to conduct a limited parliamentary inspection of local governments.

The DLP said it will hold a general meeting attended by 15,000 party central committee members, representatives and other senior members of the party on Wednesday afternoon to reaffirm their determination to win the presidential election.

The central committee plans to elect Rep. Chong Suk-mo as chairman and Rep. Pak Myong-hwan as senior vice chairman and to increase the number of committee members by 3,000 and strengthen the committee in preparation for the presidential election.

Pak Tae-chun Absent From Party Meeting

SK0710032792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0215 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 7 (YONHAP)—A jittery mood continued to afflict the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) Wednesday as Chairman Pak Tae-chun went out of town after informing the party that he would be absent from the plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee slated to be held in Seoul later in the day.

Pak left for Pohang in the morning after telling party Secretary-General Kim Yong-ku that he would not be present at the Central Committee meeting. The DLP is to hold the second plenary meeting of the committee at Chamsil indoor gymnasium with 15,000 party members, including key post-holders and lawmakers, attending.

Kim was at pains to belittle the significance of Pak's trip to Pohang, telling reporters that "he went to Pohang to placate Pohang Iron and Steel Co. workers and their wives who are now staging a sit-in protest demanding he do not resign as chairman of the company."

"There is no political motive in his journey," Kim said.

But some insiders said Pak seemed to be quitting official party functions in line with his determination not to accept the chairmanship of the DLP presidential election campaign management committee.

They pointed out that Pak did not make any firm commitment when he was asked by party President Kim Yong-sam on Monday and by Executive Chairman Kim Chong-pil on Tuesday to head the party's election campaign machine.

Pak has reportedly refused to take the key post in protest over Kim Yong-sam's abolition of an agreement on parliamentary cabinet system, the party's granting Rep. Ho Hwa-pyong (Pohang) its membership without prior consultation with him, and Kim Yong-sam's style of operating the party allegedly relying too much on his own close aides.

POSCO Workers Urge Pak Tae-chun To Stay

SK0710104092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 7 (YONHAP)—Pak Tae-chun's resignation Monday as chairman of Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (POSCO) is sending waves throughout the industry.

On Tuesday, 48 directors and 141 department managers appealed to Pak to stay on at POSCO. The directors also tendered their resignations.

In Pohang, 1,000 POSCO workers and their wives marched along a 2-km street linking the city stadium to POSCO's head office, urging Pak not to leave, and some 2,500 workers and their families at the Kwangyang Steel Works protested against his resignation.

On Wednesday morning, 50 workers from Pohang and Kwangyang staged a protest in front of Pak's house in Seoul, demanding he reconsider his resignation as POSCO chairman. And a dozen or so heads of iron and steel companies met at a Seoul hotel to seek a way to persuade him to remain at POSCO.

Pak reiterated his position to a group of managers who visited his home Tuesday, telling them that POSCO should continue operating as normal after he was gone.

"It's almost impossible for Pak to cancel his resignation, and given his personality he is unlikely to accept an honorary chairmanship," a close aide says.

He says Pak's wife, who helped her husband make his decision to leave POSCO, has asked they be left in peace.

Industry sources say Pak resigned to protect POSCO from political influence by firmly establishing a succession. They also say he was moved by his determination to resign honorably when the final blast furnace at Kwangyang was dedicated.

Pak Rejects POSCO Honorary Chairmanship

SK0810055692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Pohang, South Korea, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—The Board of Directors of the Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (POSCO) decided Thursday to designate former Chairman Pak Tae-chun an honorary chairman after approving his resignation, submitted Monday.

Pak rejected the honorary chairmanship and told the board he had resigned as chairman because he thought it was time to retire after a quarter century of work for POSCO.

Vice Chairman Hwang Kyong-no said POSCO was still in need of Pak's leadership.

The board met in Seoul, Pohang and Kwangyang with the aid of a teleconferencing service.

'Emissaries' To Urge Pak To Return

SK0810073592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0551 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, president of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], sent two senior party officials to Pohang on Thursday to persuade Chairman Pak Tae-chun to return to Seoul immediately and resume his party duties.

Secretary-General Kim Yong-ku and Chief Policymaker Hwang In-song went to the steel town in South Kyongsang Province after a meeting of senior party officials at DLP headquarters Thursday morning to discuss problems related to Pak.

DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae told reporters later that it was decided to send the emissaries to Pohang to plead with Pak to make up his mind as his absence from the party was breeding all sorts of speculation that would not be beneficial to anyone.

Although Kim Yong-sam's action was characterized by some as "a request" or even "pleading," it was actually an ultimatum for Pak to either return to the fold or leave the party, informed sources said.

Close aides to Kim said that Pak went to Pohang to persuade employees of the Pohang Iron and Steel Co. to stop a sit-in at which they were demanding Pak rescind his resignation as chairman of the giant steel company.

In fact, however, Pak refused to perform his duty as chairman of the party when he missed a central committee meeting in Seoul to boost the party's presidential election campaign, the aides said.

"We are preparing ourselves for the eventuality," one said, obviously with the eventual separation of Kim and Pak in mind.

As though underscoring these remarks by his aides, Kim made no mention of Pak in his speech at Wednesday's meeting, thus publicly expressing "his displeasure" with the party chairman.

Pak, leader of President No Tae-u's faction in the DLP, has been wavering since No left the party last week to form a politically neutral cabinet to oversee the presidential election.

But more specifically, Pak is said to be highly dissatisfied with Kim Yong-sam's management of the party and a perceived lack of response on Kim's part to their agreement to introduce a cabinet form of government.

In any event, if Pak leaves, the Democratic Liberal Party will suffer a considerable setback, analysts say, because many members of No's faction will follow Pak out of the party.

Kim Efforts To Persuade Pak 'Abandoned'

SK0810020492 Seoul YONHAP in English 2346 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, president of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], has abandoned his efforts to name party Chairman Pak Tae-chun as his election campaign manager, party sources said Thursday.

Kim, who is also the DLP's presidential candidate, has unsuccessfully tried to persuade Pak to cooperate with his election efforts. But since Pak had been adamant in

his refusal to become the chairman of the campaign committee, Kim has decided to let Pak make up his own mind, the sources said.

One of Kim's aides said Pak was dissatisfied with Kim's lack of response to their earlier agreement to work for the cabinet system of government and his method of operating the party through his close aides.

During his talks with Pak, Kim Yong-sam tried to explain pressing current circumstances with the presidential poll only two months away. The aide said he believed Pak will eventually agree to become the campaign manager since Kim Yong-sam has promised him to reform the party operation.

"But nothing could be done if Pak continues to refuse to cooperate with the party's efforts for the presidential election and decline to carry out his duties as chairman," the aide said, requesting anonymity.

Meanwhile, Pak was reported to be contemplating what to do about his own future.

One party official closely associated with Pak said if the chairman decides to remain in the party, he will have to take the job of managing Kim's election campaigns. If he doesn't, there would be no justifiable reason for him to remain in the party, the official added.

In any event, Pak is expected to make his decision and show it through his action by early next week, he said.

Presidential Secretary Kim Chung-kwon Leaves DLP

SK0610031892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0040 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 6 (YONHAP)—Senior presidential secretary for political affairs Kim Chung-kwon applied Tuesday to leave the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] one day after President No Tae-u formally severed ties with the DLP.

"As a senior secretary for political affairs, I decided to leave the party to assist President No, as he resigned his DLP membership to strictly oversee the presidential election in mid-December," Kim said.

Chongwadae Policy Adviser Yim In-kyu resigned from the DLP after President No announced on Sept. 18 his decision to leave the party.

National Assembly Standing Committees Meet

SK0810020992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—All 17 standing committees of the National Assembly opened their first sessions Thursday to work out plans for the parliamentary inspections of governmental organizations Oct. 15-24.

Each committee will write down its plans for inspections and select witnesses and send out their summons. They will then submit their plans to a plenary session of the National Assembly.

On Wednesday, the House Steering Committee Decided to inspect 294 governmental agencies, including 99 ministries and the presidential Secretariat, and 26 state-invested organizations, including the Bank of Korea and five special city and provincial governments.

The selected city and provincial governments are those of Seoul and Pusan and South Cholla, South Chungchong and Kangwon Provinces.

Chong Sok-mo Elected Standing Committee Chairman

SK0810045992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 8 Oct 92 p 2

[Text] Chong Sok-mo, a five-term lawmaker of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), was elected chairman of the party's Central Standing Committee yesterday.

The election came at the committee's second general meeting in which some 15,000 partymen attended.

Party leader and presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam spoke at the meeting at Chamsil Gym in southeastern Seoul, calling for greater party unity for the upcoming presidential election.

Opposition Lawmakers Investigated on Spy Ring

SK0810043292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] A couple of opposition lawmakers are under investigation by the government intelligence agencies in connection with their possible contacts with a North Korean woman spy master, an informed source said yesterday.

Yi Son-sil, 70, who spent 10 years in South Korea masterminding an underground operation by North Korean spy agents, is suspected of having met several opposition lawmakers, according to the source.

Using the aliases of "Sin Sun-yo" or "Yi Sun-hwa," Yi established a South Korean chapter of North Korea's ruling Workers', [as published] the Agency for National Security Planning announced Tuesday.

Announcing that 62 persons, including leading dissidents, have been arrested in connection with the spy case, the NSP said that it is hunting for some 300 others involved in the largest spy network in four decades.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that Yi contacted opposition lawmakers, taking into consideration the fact that she had met leading figures from various walks of life," said the source.

The source added that the intelligence authorities are having trouble in investigation because Yi returned to the North in 1990.

Deputy Primier's DPRK Visit To Be Postponed

SK0810024792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to inform North Korea at a liaison officials meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom on Friday that it will postpone a planned visit to Pyongyang by Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu.

The South Korean Government is expected to tell the North Korean side that the postponement of Choe's visit was unavoidable because of the mounting internal reaction against the massive spy operation launched against the South by the North.

On Wednesday, cabinet ministers concerned with unification issued a statement demanding an apology from North Korea for its violation of the inter-Korean accords on reconciliation and cooperation.

They also demanded immediate North Korean measures against the recurrence of the "cynical action," in which Pyongyang dispatched spies to the South while talking about peace and reconciliation.

Choe's visit to the North had to be postponed anyway because of the National Assembly's schedule, government sources said. The southern side will propose to the northern side that they discuss a new date for Choe's visit later, they added.

The government will propose to the North by telephone that the Joint Political Committee of the Prime Ministerial Conference meet around Oct. 14. At the meeting, South Korea will demand that North Korea admit setting up the spy ring, apologize, and promise not to do it again.

Choe, who is also economic planning minister, was to visit North Korea at the invitation of his northern counterpart, Kim Tal-hyon, for five days.

Premier To Seek North's Apology

SK0810103792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0933 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong said Thursday that there will be no change in the government's basic policy toward North Korea.

"At the next South-North prime ministers meeting slated for December, we will continue to push through our existing policy," said Hyon.

At a press conference soon after his inauguration, the new premier said, however, that at the upcoming prime ministers talks, he would obtain the North's apology for their attempt made in the recently uncovered large espionage incident to subvert the South in breach of the basic South-North agreement.

"We will also demand the North take proper steps to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents," he said.

Prime Minister Hyon said that the paramount mission facing the government is to manage the presidential election fairly. "Besides, we will do all we can to stabilize the economy and ensure public peace so as to build a society where you people can live free of any fear," he said.

Regarding the composition of a new cabinet, Hyon said efforts are being made to select those virtuous and well experienced persons who can meet people's expectation.

Defense Ministry To Look for Tunnels From North

SK0810021192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0106 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry will conduct a second comprehensive search for North Korean infiltration tunnels northwest of Seoul from late this month, a ministry source said Thursday.

The search would be conducted by the ministry with mechanical and technical assistance from the army, he said.

The ministry will form a tunnel search committee and appoint as members some civilians who claim to have detected North Korean tunnels in Kimpo County along with scientists and geologists.

The committee will plan, execute, and oversee the search for North Korean tunnels.

The ministry made a field study around Hupyongni village in Kimpo County with experts and scientists Tuesday.

They included Yi Ki-hwa, a noted geophysicist from Seoul National University, Kim Se-yun, an electronics expert from the Korea Advanced institute of Science and Technology, and Chong Chi-yong, a former warrant officer with the military security command who has conducted independent searches and claims to have detected tunnels.

The ministry will conduct an intensive investigation of the area after determining drilling sites and depths, according to the source.

"The army has drilled in the area and in nearby Kumiri village on numerous occasions, but failed to find signs of a tunnel," the source said.

"The army has decided to conduct a thorough investigation of the area again, however, taking into account every possibility by using every type of equipment possible in an effort to do away with the impression that it was reluctant to do the work," he added.

Nuclear 'Suspicion' Postpones Troop Reduction

SK0810040692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0225 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Washington, Oct. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States agreed Wednesday to delay the second-phase U.S. troop reduction, scheduled for 1993-95, until suspicion over North Korean nuclear development disappears.

In the Military Committee Meeting (MCM), Gen. Yi Pil-sop, chairman of the Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Colin Powell, his U.S. counterpart, concurred that deterrence was most important in defending the Korean peninsula.

It was also agreed the "flexible deterrence option" would be used on the point of war in Korea and the two countries would keep improving the U.S. reinforcement deployment plan in preparation for war.

Flexible deterrence is a new strategic concept that enables rapid deployment combat forces centering on the air force and navy to be dispatched to Korea prior to war to deter an attack by North Korea when signs of aggression are detected.

The MCM, held on the first day of the security consultative meeting, agreed a proper U.S. troop level should be sustained in Korea as far as both governments and peoples believed U.S. forces were needed to deter war, maintain stability, and keep peace.

The agreements between Yi and Powell will be finalized in talks between their defense ministers Thursday and announced as a joint declaration.

Resumption of the Korea-U.S. "Team Spirit" joint military exercise was not settled, though it was agreed that preparations for the drill would proceed as planned and that the issue would be settled in compliance with the situation later.

The two sides agreed that the United States would positively support Korea's efforts to upgrade the intelligence-gathering ability of its armed forces to improve the joint combat capability amid the changing strategic environment around the Korean peninsula.

They shared the view that the combined defense system should be strengthened to prevent war in Korea and that their security ties should be developed into a mutually complementary partnership from a long-term view.

The timetable for transfer of peacetime operational control over the Korean Armed Forces from the United States to Korea was dealt with in detail.

Korea and the United States decided last year to delay the second-phase U.S. troop reduction due to the North Korean nuclear development and change peacetime operational control sometime in 1993-95.

Portable Missile Obtained From France

SK0810071492 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 8 Oct 92 p 14

[Text] The ROK Air Force obtained and deployed the portable Mistral ground-to-air missile, an improved model of the Hawk PIP 2 missile, from France in July 1992 in order to intercept infiltration by air. The Air Force had a demonstration of these missiles at a firing range in the frontline area of the western sector on the afternoon of 8 October to test their performance.

Yi Yang-ho, Air Force chief of staff; Kim Chin-yong, Army chief of staff; key figures from the Air Force and Army; and other relevant people from the Institute of Defense Science and Technology and the defense industry were present at this demonstration.

The specifications for the Mistral missile are: Guidance system tracks by infrared rays (heat); effective range is 5-6 km; effective altitude is 3 km; hits target 92 percent of the time; speed is Mach 0.85-2.4; missile weighs 24.15 kg; and length is 1.85 meters.

Textile Firms 'Rushing' to Vietnam

SK0710033292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Oct 92 p 9

[Text] Korean textile industries are rushing to Vietnam after the opening of Korea's liaison office in Hanoi in August.

Five firms received permits for investment projects worth $17 million in Vietnam from the Bank of Korea, the Korean Federation of Textile and Industries revealed yesterday. The firms will focus on cotton clothing and dress making.

Pangrim Spinning Co. built a spinning plant in Hanoi by investing $12.6 million and transferring its own spinning machinery from Korea. The factory has the capacity to produce 1.8 million yards of cotton clothing per month.

Chungnam Spinning Co. is scheduled to open a two-million-dollar facility in Ho Chi Minh City in cooperation with a local firm later this month.

Meanwhile, Hankook Trading Co. will complete the construction of a textile factory in Dong Nai province, southern Vietnam, at the end of this month. The company has been operating a plant in Vietnam since July.

Hanjoo Corporation, which was the first firm to receive permission from the Vietnamese government to open a plant, is exporting its products to European Community member countries after investing $392,000 in the Ho Chi Minh City production facility.

Also, Chonbang Co. has plans to invest $6.8 million for a spinning production plant near the Vietnamese capital.

Another firm, Dongkuk Trading Co. is now studying a plan to set up a textile plant in Song Be province, which will be a industrial complex in the near future.

Officials, Businessmen Plan Vietnam Study Team

SK0810011492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0022 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea is to send an investment feasibility study team, comprising businessmen and officials from the Economic Planning Board, and the Foreign, Finance, and Trade and Industry Ministries, to Vietnam around Oct. 22, a government source said Thursday.

The first joint mission, led by an official from the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA), will visit Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, and Haiphong, areas designated to house special processing plants for exports, the source said.

They will also study the site for a Korean industrial complex and material preparations are expected to follow, he added.

The team will speed up bilateral economic cooperation with the formation of diplomatic ties between Korea and Vietnam, expected at the beginning of next year, the source said.

Maximum Agricultural Tariff Rate To Be Abolished

SK0810042992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Oct 92 p 10

[Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] has decided to abolish the current maximum tariff rate of 40 percent on agricultural products.

The current maximum ceiling of up to 100 percent tariff rates on foreign industrial products will also be scrapped to protect domestic firms from foreign dumping.

Thus, Korea can theoretically charge whatever tariff rates on foreign agricultural products and new industrial goods that have locally been developed.

The MOF will revise the current tariff laws during the first half of next year after consultations with other ministries and government agencies.

Price differences between Korean and Chinese agricultural products have been as wide as 500-1,000 percent.

Forged U.S. Identification Card Case Probed

SK0710135992 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 7 Oct 92 p 23

[Text] After stealing identification cards from dependents of U.S. forces in the ROK and forging them in large numbers, forgery rings have been selling them to Post Exchange goods dealers and housewives for 1 million Korean won per sheet. After this was revealed, prosecution authorities began an overall investigation of these organizations.

Prosecution authorities believe that these organizations were connected with the theft of identification card forms from a certain U.S. forces unit located in Tongduchon, Kyonggi Province, and are pursuing a man named Kim (55), who sold the forged identification cards.

Kim Chun-kyu, prosecutor of the Fourth Criminal Division of the Seoul District Prosecution Office, detained in custody and indicted Cho Hye-hyang (44) on 7 October, a female who lives at Tongbu Ichon-tong, Seoul, on charges of forging private documents, that is, of buying and selling the forged identification cards of dependents of U.S. forces in the ROK. The prosecutor also indicted two others not detained, including Kim Kyong-hui (37), a female who lives at Chonho-tong, Seoul.

Mrs. Cho was introduced to Mr. Kim, leader of a forgery ring, by a Korean related to him who resides in the United States in June 1992. Mrs. Cho received the forged identification cards of U.S. forces dependents from Mr. Kim, conspired with him to sell them to the Post Exchange goods dealers and others, and is suspected of selling them for 1 million Korean won per sheet on two occasions in August 1992.

Prosecution authorities believe that because the identification card holders can easily purchase the U.S. California-grown rice popular among housewives from the Post Exchange and can use U.S. forces facilities, including golf courses, these forgery rings have committed organized crimes against rich housewives and Post Exchange goods dealers. The prosecution authorities are investigating these crimes based on such conclusions.

Korean Methane Concentration Highest in World

SK0810050692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 8 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] The concentration of methane, an agent identified as one of the major culprits of the greenhouse effect, in the atmosphere above the Korean peninsula is the highest in the world, a recent study showed.

According to Prof. Chong Yong-sung of the Korea National University of Education, located in Chongju, Chungchong-pukto, the large amounts of methane are believed to be either drifting or blowing in from China.

There has been extensive study on the various environmental effects caused by pollution in China but this is the first time that concrete evidence has been found on the migration of methane to the peninsula.

The results were released in Chongju Monday jointly by Chong, also director of the university's Environmental Science Institute, and Edward Dlugokenky of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] of the United States.

"We have been aware that there have been adverse environmental effects caused in this region by the migration of various polluting agents from China but the situation with the movement of methane is of serious concern," Chong said.

In the jointly-written paper, issued after 22 months of experimentation and field surveying, Chong said the average concentration of methane over the southern half of the peninsula was 1,823.3 ppb (parts per billion), considerably higher than the global average of 1,660 ppb.

The readings were obtained by establishing measuring devices at various locations in Taean, Chungchongnamdo. Readings were taken once a month throughout the 22-month period.

Corresponding measurements in areas located along Taean's latitudinal circumference are 1,670 ppb in Samoa and 1,720 ppb in Hawaii, said Dlugokenky who teaches at the University of Colorado.

The local reading is even higher than the estimated 1,800 ppb in Molbay, northern Canada where methane concentration was thought to be the heaviest, he added.

Methane, the environmental expert explained, is one of the major causes of global warming, or the greenhouse effect, along with carbon dioxide which has also been found to be drifting in from China.

NOAA, meanwhile, has been conducting tests on the migration of polluting agents from China to the western parts of Northeast Asia as well as the Pacific region since last year.

Dlugokenky said in the paper that the annual production of methane is estimated to be some 500 million tons and is growing at the alarming yearly rate of 10 percent.

Methane is a chemical that is largely produced during the disintegration of organic substances and the increase in population is generally correlated to the hike in the amount of methane.

Chong and Dlugolenky said greater regional cooperation, particularly in Northeast Asia, is desperately required to control the migration of polluting agents from China where industrialization is briskly under way.

Cambodia

Advance Mission of Japanese Peacekeepers Arrives

OW0310093092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 3 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Oct. 3 KYODO—The first group of the second advance mission of Japanese peacekeepers arrived in Cambodia Saturday to take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations in the war-ravaged country.

The 84-member group on two C-130 transport aircraft landed at Pochentong airport in the suburbs of the capital.

Shihen Watanabe, Cambodian-born soldier of the Ground Self-Defense Force, was among the contingent. The 27-year-old officer is the son of a Japanese father and Cambodian mother.

He went to Japan with his Cambodian wife as a refugee in 1985 and joined the military service five years later. His father has been missing after being detained by Khmer Rouge fighters in 1975. His mother and family members now live in Cambodia.

The second contingent of the second advance mission, comprising 76 members, is scheduled to arrive in Cambodia on Sunday.

The second advance mission precedes the dispatch of the 380-member Main Engineering Corps slated to arrive in the country mid-October.

The 160-member second advance mission will join part of the first advance mission, which has already embarked on setting up a base camp in Takeo, south of Phnom Penh, to make preparations for the arrival of the Main Engineering Corps.

The engineering corps will repair roads and bridges. Japan's peacekeeping cooperation is slated to end in October 1993.

The Japanese Government approved a plan in early September to send more than 1,800 military and civilian personnel.

Chea Sim Delegation Examines Malaysian Planning

BK0810063392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] The high-level delegation led by His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Chea Sim—chairman of the Cambodian People's Party, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense—which is currently visiting Malaysia, paid a visit to the Economic Planning Department at the Malaysian prime minister's office on the morning of 6 October. Our delegation was cordially welcomed by (Anwar Mar), deputy director of the department, and several other officials there.

Our delegation listened to a report on preparations since (?1947) of Malaysia's state planning which has made the country achieve remarkable development. Apparently, the Malaysian people's living conditions have been improved: The yearly average income which was $1,109 in 1970 has increased up to $(?7,180) in 1990, and the rate of poverty which was (?99.3) percent then has dropped to only 19.1 percent now. Our delegation exchanged views on the preparation of state planning in order to gain from Malaysia's experience.

On the afternoon of the same day, our delegation headed by H.E. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, held talks with Malaysia's Cellular Network Company or Celcom, which has planned to make investment to facilitate the communications network in Cambodia.

Our delegation also held a meeting on the issue of foreign investment in Cambodia with important Malaysian businessmen and a number of Malaysian reporters.

At 1600 on the same day at the Malaysian Chamber of Commerce, a program was organized for our delegation to present a report on foreign investment works in Cambodia to Malaysia's prominent businessmen. Our delegation talked about some investment formalities and the process of investment in the country and answered questions on the investment matter posed by Malaysian reporters.

More on Chea Sim Malaysian Visit

BK0710111592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] During its visit to Malaysia, at 1500 on 5 October, the high-ranking delegation of the State of Cambodia [SOC] led by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, held talks with Tan Sri Tengku Mohamed Zahir, speaker of the Malaysian Parliament.

Also attending the talks on the Cambodian side, were H.E. Kong-Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Chea Chanto, planning minister; Sin Sen, deputy minister of National Security; Sok An, chief of the CPP Central Committee office and deputy interior minister; Hun Neng, chairman of the Kompong Cham provincial people's committee; Chea Sophara, vice chairman of the Phnom Penh municipal people's committee; and a number of other leading officials. On the Malaysian side were Datuk Mohamed Tajol Rosli, deputy minister of energy, telecommunications, and posts; Datuk Ismail Said, parliamentary secretary for

youth and sports; and Datuk Basri Bajuri, Mohamed Omar, and Dr. Jamaludin Jarjis, members of parliament.

During the talks, H.E. Chea Sim deeply thanked the Malaysian Parliament Speaker for inviting and warmly welcoming the delegation. H.E. Chea Sim sincerely praised Malaysia for its brilliant achievements in building and developing the country. He also informed the hosts about the implementation of the Paris peace agreement, which the SOC side has correctly and sincerely done at every phase. H.E. Chea Sim talked about the SOC proposal on organizing the election for the Cambodian president or head of state, prior to that of the constituent assembly.

H.E. Speaker Mohamed Zahir expressed great joy at welcoming the high-ranking Cambodian delegation. He pointed out that the preservation of peace requires astute efforts and hoped that the forthcoming elections will lead to a stable government. He was also gratified for the information about the general situation in Cambodia and talked about some experiences on political structures with many parties and on the power of the president and parliament.

The talks took place in a happy and cordial atmosphere with mutual understanding. Afterward, H.E. Mohamed Zahir took the delegation on a tour of the lower house building and the Senate and explained the meeting procedures of Malaysia's legislature.

On the evening of the same day at the Parliament building, H.E. Mohamed Zahir hosted a reception for the delegation with the participation of members of parliament and many high-ranking Malaysian Government officials. In his reception speech, he stressed that the historic and cultural relations of the two people and countries have been reflected in the arts, language, literature, and cuisine. He talked about the Cambodian people's past hardship and suffering and said Malaysia's interest is to assist them in achieving national reconciliation and peace. The return of peace is imperative not only for the Cambodian people but also for peace and the continued prosperity of the entire Southeast Asian region and the world.

H.E. Mohamed Zahir stressed that Malaysia is determined to contribute not only personnel and finance to UN forces in Cambodia but also assistance for national restoration and construction. Finally, he expressed the hope that the years of fear and countless suffering would quickly end so that Cambodia could become a partner in Southeast Asia's progress.

On this occasion, H.E. Chairman Chea Sim also made a return speech. He pointed out the CPP and the SOC Government's sacred aspiration in the search for peace and national reconciliation for the motherland and the people, along with efforts to implement the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement. He also stressed the importance of ties between Cambodia and Malaysia in a new phase. This will be good and constructive for the two people and countries and will be a major contribution to the cause of peace, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world.

The reception was held in a happy, cordial, and very friendly atmosphere.

Heng Samrin Thanked by SRV Head of State

BK0610053492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, chairman of the Council of State of the State of Cambodia, received on 30 September a message of thanks from H.E. Le Duc Anh, head of state of the SRV. The message said:

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the best wishes you sent me on my election as the SRV head of state.

May the Cambodian people enjoy success in their efforts for national reconciliation and for building a peaceful, independent, neutral, nonaligned, and prosperous Cambodia.

May the friendship and cooperation between our two countries further strengthen and develop with each passing day.

Indian Attache Assured of Respect for Peace Plan

BK0610060692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0130 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 5 Oct (SPK)—During a meeting with Colonel Mohinder Puri, military attache of the Indian Embassy, General Phuong Siphan, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces, assured him of the State of Cambodia Government's respect for and implementation of the Paris agreements, especially the cease-fire.

He said that the State of Cambodia has just demobilized some 40,000 soldiers under UNTAC (UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia) supervision. The general also underlined that the Khmer Rouge continue to violate the cease-fire and obstruct the peace process in Cambodia. We are one month away from the celebration of the first anniversary of the Paris agreements, he affirmed, before adding that despite so many concessions made by the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge have placed themselves outside the UN peace plan and are seeking to seize power by force.

Whether the Khmer Rouge are going to take part or not in the Cambodian peace plan, the State of Cambodia will continue to implement the accords, he stated.

KR Officer Addresses 3 Oct MMWG Meeting

BK0710132192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Oct 92

["Address by General Nuon Bunno, Liaison Officer of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea Attached to the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG], at the First-level Meeting on 3 October 1992" in Phnom Penh—read by announcer]

[Text] My respects to Lieutenant General John Sanderson, commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, as well as excellencies, generals, and gentlemen the members of the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG].

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank Gen. John Sanderson for having arranged for officers of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] to be stationed in Kompong Cham and at the Sre Ambel checkpoint [Koh Kong Province] and for having informed our meeting about the resumption of international observation at Point 525 in Kompong Thom Province. I hope we will have the opportunity at this meeting to examine the developments of the past more than 11 months since the Paris accord was signed on 23 October 1991.

On 11 January 1992, a journalist pointed out in the BANGKOK POST that the Cambodian people had begun to lose faith in UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. The WASHINGTON POST on 22 September, underlined that the Cambodian people in November 1991 joyfully welcomed and were relieved at the arrival of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia. Huge crowds stood outside the living quarters of the peacekeeping forces and watched them for hours. At that time, the people had hoped that Cambodia would be saved. But now, there are no gatherings as before and the people are becoming disappointed.

The Cambodian people have anxiously followed the situation. This is the truth. They have seen that the two key issues concerning the verification of the withdrawal of all categories of foreign troops from Cambodia and the Supreme National Council [SNC] as the sole legitimate organization and source of authority in Cambodia have not yet been resolved. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] has painstakingly done whatever it could to jointly resolve the deadlock.

On this issue, it is worth mentioning some core points of the 29 August 1992 letter from His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, head of the PDK and SNC member, to H.E. General Butrus Butrus Ghali, United Nations secretary general, since these are keeping with the discussion today.

H.E. Khieu Samphan wrote the letter with the sincere intention of resolving all difficulties encountered in the course of the Paris accord's implementation. The PDK has presented one proposal after another with the 22 August 1992 proposal being the latest one. They have proposed nothing except to ask for the strengthening of the SNC role. This is so that the SNC has the authority and necessary means to effect its mandate as the unique legitimate organization and source of power in executing the Paris accord in close collaboration with UNTAC, and for creating consultative committees within the existing administrative structures of all Cambodian parties. This is to allow those committees to join forces with UNTAC to verify every aspect of the accord.

Is the request contrary to the accord? We have agreed to enter phase two when the necessary measures are taken to enable the SNC to cooperate with UNTAC in effectively verifying every aspect, chiefly the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia.

The public is aware that there are still many kinds of foreign forces, advisers, and experts in Cambodia. They are disguised as Phnom Penh faction soldiers or civilian advisers or experts working within the Phnom Penh administrative structure or civilians, Vietnamese settlers, or ordinary citizens living in rural areas or cities. That being the case, it would be insufficient and ineffective if we only think about military measures. No matter how necessary they are, military measures are within the framework of the control and supervision of all the aspects by UNTAC in close collaboration with the SNC. So if the SNC, comprising the four Cambodian parties, still has no role to play, can UNTAC alone efficiently verify both the military and administrative aspects? Experiences of the past 11 months clearly show that UNTAC is not acquainted with the situation in Cambodia. UNTAC, whatever their good intentions, is also not able to effectively verify the withdrawal of all categories of foreign forces from Cambodia and to guarantee their nonreturn.

H.E. Khieu Samphan has pointed out that we have no reason to prevent the implementation of the Paris accord—instead, we have striven to do everything to ensure its full execution. This is because the accord conforms to the struggle as well as the earnest aspiration and demand of the Cambodian people. In addition, the PDK has no reason to oppose the United Nations' participation in Cambodia. On the contrary, we realize that the UN presence in Cambodia is necessary so that it can cooperate with the SNC in implementing every clause of the Paris accord.

Finally, I would like to express the hope that we will find ways to restore the confidence of the Cambodian people.

Sihanouk Discusses Illness, Medical Treatment

BK0710130392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 7 Oct 92

[7 October message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk to Buddhist monks and compatriots—read by announcer]

[Text] Venerable monks, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, my beloved compatriots: I, your prince father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, would like to send you my greatest love, most heartfelt affection, and undying loyalty. I have the honor of informing you about the medical treatment I have been receiving at the main hospital in Beijing, capital of the PRC. It is as follows:

1. The Chinese doctors who are treating me are all expert and famous professors. They are taking very good care of me and are trying very hard to keep my illness from being aggravated.

2. However, according to the diagnosis of these proficient doctors, it is not easy to cure my illness quickly. Its treatment needs a lot of time and very close and precise medical expertise.

3. Furthermore, treatment based on surgery does not guarantee a total remedy. On the contrary, surgery might even cause undesirable consequences.

4. At the present, I am not relieved of the illness yet, despite the proficient and excellent treatment of these talented doctors.

5. Nevertheless, I will return to the Cambodian motherland very soon in order to stay close to you, venerable monks, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, my beloved compatriots, and continue serving our nation. Later, in November I will ask for your permission to kindly allow me to return to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the PRC where I will undergo further treatment and therapy.

Venerable monks, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, my beloved compatriots, please accept the deepest veneration, greatest affection, and undying loyalty from me. May all of you always enjoy the five Buddhist blessings.

Beijing, 7 October 1992
Signed: Norodom Sihanouk

Indonesia

Minister Addresses Petroleum Association

BK0810041992 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Radius Prawiro, coordinating minister for economics, finance, and industry, says the country's existing economic policy is aimed at consolidating economic progress and maintaining economic deregulation policies. Speaking at the 21st annual convention of the Indonesian Petroleum Association in Jakarta yesterday, Minister Radius said that as a result of these deregulation policies, the government had approved foreign investments worth $8.8 billion in 1991—a 10-fold increase to those approved in 1988. Meanwhile, in 1991, the export value stood at $29 billion, or a 97-percent increase over that five years earlier. The minister noted that economic progress achieved thus far by the country proved that the national development strategy was suitable, stable, and under control.

Nagasaki Spirit Towed to Belawan Port

BK0510122992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1041 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Medan, Oct 5 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Liberian Nagasaki Spirit oil tanker with its torn leftside wall following a collision with the Ocean Blessing container ship in the Malacca Straits two weeks ago is now being towed to Belawan Port.

Indonesian patrol boats have spotted the reportedly "missing" tanker in the vicinity of the Berhala water territory, under the escort of three Singaporean tugboats, ANTARA was told by Belawan Port administration security officer Nurdin on Sunday.

Indonesian authorities have given the instruction to tow the 96,000 dwt [dead weight tons] tanker, which is owned by the Teekey Canada shipping firm, to Belawan Port, he said, in order to facilitate supervision.

The towing operation was started on Saturday evening, with an additional boat from the Belawan Port administration to assist the Singaporean tugboats. Then, the tanker was at a point of about 15 miles from the port.

Thus far, no security man has dared to board the tanker with its 57,000 tons crude oil load, the security officer said.

Military Chief Leaves for 5-Day Visit to PRC

BK0810074292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno and his entourage today began a five-day working visit to the PRC. Gen. Sutrisno and his entourage left Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusumah Airport for Beijing aboard a Boeing 707 plane belonging to the Indonesian Air Force.

A press release of the Armed Forces Information Center received by the RRI [Radio Republik Indonesia] said that Gen. Sutrisno is visiting the PRC at the invitation of the chief of joint staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the visit is aimed at forging closer relations and cooperation between the two countries in general, and the two countries' armed forces in particular. During the visit the armed forces commander will pay a courtesy call on the officials of the PRC Ministry of Defense and the People's Liberation Army as well as visit various military installations and historical sites in that country.

Philippines

Some Form of Bases Access Agreement Said Likely

HK0510140392 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] Senators today said the Philippine Government is likely to agree to access arrangements with the U.S. Government over the use of military bases, though the form the agreement will take is yet unclear.

Senator Neptali Gonzales said, after a briefing with Defense Chief Renato de Villa, that President Ramos wants to grant U.S. warships and aircraft access to Subic Naval Base and Cubi Air Station.

The government had earlier expressed openness to use of the two bases for commercial purposes.

Gonzales and Leticia Shahani, former foreign affairs committee chairman, said some form of agreement is likely to be made:

[Begin recording] [Gonzales] Whether they will do it in the form of a memorandum of agreement, executive agreement, or whether in the form of a treaty, but whatever mode that the same is entered, then it's better that there should be consultation with the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives or at least the respective leaders. [sentence as heard]

[Shahani] There has to be some agreement. I mean it is too important a matter to be left to just a verbal agreement. There will have to be something in writing and, of course, when that something in writing is with the U.S., or with a foreign government, it can take the form of a law or an executive agreement. [end recording]

Groups Seek Annulment of Mutual Defense Treaty

HK0810012792 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 7 Oct 92

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The New Nationalist Alliance, People's Party [Partido ng Bayan-PnB], and other cause-oriented groups today called on the government to annul the Mutual Defense Treaty amid reports that Malacanang would again grant the United States use of Cubi Naval Air Station.

Loreta Anne Rosales, PnB president, said the United States and the Philippines may use the treaty to retain American troops on the base after 24 November.

[Begin Rosales recording in English] I am afraid that Mr. Ramos, by November when there is going to be a mutual defense board meeting, is going to work it out so that the United States can have access to Cubi Point. And when we say access to Cubi Point, that means nuclear-propelled, nuclear-capable warships of the United States will start landing on Philippine soil. And that is a violation of the Philippine Constitution. [end recording]

Meanwhile in the Lower House, Speaker Jose de Venecia clarified that the military bases left by the American soldiers would only be used for constructing commercial establishments. De Venecia issued this statement in reaction to reports that Malacanang would give the United States an access arrangement to the bases.

Unification Body Supports Communist Reform Call

HK0710031692 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 7 Oct 92 p 6

[Report by Frank Longid and Booma Cruz]

[Text] National Unification Commission Chairman Haydee Yorac yesterday announced that the NUC was concurring with the National Democratic Front [NDF] in the call for socioeconomic and electoral reforms and a "broader and more effective enforcement of human rights principles."

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa said President Ramos has given Yorac the power to issue safe conduct passes to leftist, rightist and secessionist rebels wanting to avail of the government amnesty package.

De Villa, an NUC member, said the military and police would honor the non-transferable passes, to be signed by him and Interior and Local Governments Secretary Rafael Alunan III, for a specific time period set by the NUC.

The NUC, he noted, has yet to issue a pass. "Hindi pa siya (Yorac) nagpapapirma sa amin. Wala pa kaming pinipirmahan na safe- conduct pass [She (Yorac) has not asked as to sign anything yet. We have not signed any safe conduct pass]."

But Yorac disputed this, saying the NUC released 10 passes, each with a three-week lifetime, last Monday. She refused to say who received the passes.

The NUC met last Monday to discuss refinements to the agenda proposed in the joint declaration signed by Rep. Jose Yap and NDF representatives in the Hague, Yorac said.

She added that "the NUC, as a body," was already doing exploratory talks with military rebels, but she refused to reveal details.

As of last Monday, the renegade soldiers were still formulating their proposed agenda for peace talks with the government.

"We went through a list of proposed refinements to the Hague declaration, the agenda items specifically," de Villa said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, another NUC member, said the meeting centered around "about 13 items which are actually nothing but an elaboration of the four basic

agenda that was agreed upon ... we talked about the integral components of this joint declaration in the Hague."

The four items in the agenda agreed upon at the Hague are human rights and international humanitarian law, socioeconomic reforms, political and electoral reforms and cessation of hostilities.

Yorac said the NUC paid particular attention to the need for electoral reforms. "In fact, electoral reforms are the first item in our agenda," she added.

She also stressed that the government has yet to take a stand on what reforms to institute, saying: "We are just defining the issues."

The three-hour meeting produced a draft circulated for final corrections.

After she approves the final corrections, Yorac said the draft would be submitted to Mr. Ramos for approval.

The NDF has repeatedly urged the President to approve the joint declaration which it had approved in its entirety.

"You can assure them (NDF) that we share their anxieties," the NUC chairman said.

Asked about the possibility the NDF would reject the NUC refinements, Yorac said: "Let's see what happens when we get there. We don't want to speculate."

The NUC chairman also said she was expecting a report from the NUC emissary to the Moro National Liberation Front "within the week."

Asian States To Cooperate Against Kidnappers

HK0810054092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 8 Oct 92 p 1

[Report by Booma Cruz]

[Text] Law-enforcement agencies from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have agreed to help their Philippine counterparts solve the rash of kidnappings for ransom that has terrorized the Chinese community and given the country a bad image abroad, a Malacanang official said yesterday.

A similar arrangement has also been forged with Taiwan, which is not a member of the Asean but has strong economic links with the Philippines. The Asean groups Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the cooperative effort would take the form of an exchange of information about members of international crime syndicates, including their operations and whereabouts.

Negotiations for a united Asean front against kidnapping syndicates were carried out with the approval of President Ramos, who feared that the kidnappings might scare away potential investors, the Malacanang source told the Chronicle.

He said the government decided to seek the help of police agencies in the region because of the suspected involvement of international crime gangs in kidnappings.

The Taiwanese Government, he said, agreed to allow the Philippines to hold Taiwanese nationals suspected of involvement in criminal activities here. If they escaped to their homeland, the Taiwanese would take steps to prosecute them, the official said.

He said both governments felt no need to draw up an extradition treaty since they are both members of the International Police or Interpol.

The official also said the government was not discounting the possibility of an "orchestrated" drive by some foreign businessmen to discredit the Philippines as a viable alternative investment area to Hong Kong, which would be officially turned over to Beijing in 1997.

He noted that the government is in the midst of a campaign to lure investors into the former Subic Naval Base, which would be transformed into a Hong Kong-style free port. He noted that the rash of kidnappings has been widely publicized in Hong Kong.

The official showed the Chronicle a copy of the Oct 3 issue of the Hong Kong Daily News, which carried an item about the seven Hong Kong nationals who were escorted to the Crown Colony by Vice President Joseph Estrada, chairman of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission [PACC], after being arrested here on suspicion of involvement in drug trafficking.

In the report, one of the arrested men Wung Chi Sun, claimed he was abducted and kept in a small mountaintop cottage near a military camp, where soldiers demanded P2 million [Philippine pesos] in exchange for his "freedom."

Wung, described in the news story as a sharks-fin dealer, admitted he had been overstaying in the Philippines, but said that "to his knowledge, one could just give money" and be allowed to stay.

They denied the PACC's claim that firearms had been seized from them or that they were involved in drug trafficking, saying that their captors merely wanted to extort money from them and Estrada was out to get "publicity."

The report said the arrested Hong Kong nationals are planning to file a suit for financial and moral damages against the Philippine Government.

Foreign Banks Finance Power Corporation's Project

HK0710031792 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 7 Oct 92 p 13

[Report by Katherine R. Espina]

[Text] Citibank Internationale Nederlanden Bank (INB) and the National Power Corp. (NPC) signed a $75-million loan that will fund a 300-megawatt (MW) Bataan combined cycle power plant.

A Swiss-Japanese consortium of the Asea Brown Boveri (ABB), Marubeni and Kawasaki will put up the combined cycle power plant at Limay, Bataan under a build-transfer-operate (BTO) scheme.

NPC president Pablo V. Malixi signed the loan agreement at Zurich, Switzerland. The loan Malixi signed finances the ABB portion of the power project.

The Bataan plant will cost a total of $289.5 million, the rest of the amount to be sourced through the United States Eximbank. The $75-million loan is expected to be released before year-end.

It will run on bunker fuel and will be operational by January 1993. This, however, is only Stage I of the project, or the simple cycle stage. Commercial operation of the second combined-cycle stage will commence by September 1993.

The plant is dubbed Block A of the power project. Block B should be operational by April 1993. The plant is considered one of the six fast-track projects to be put up by the same consortium which will supply an additional 300 MW to the grid.

Total project cost for the Limay gas turbine plant is about $325.5 million. Commercial operation of the blended fuel-fired plant will be in two stages. The second stage is expected to be operational also by September 1993.

Finance Secretary Says No Debt Relief Sought

HK0710031292 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] The Philippines is not seeking debt relief from its creditors. Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. revealed this to reporters today when he briefed them on the results of his latest mission to New York and Washington D.C.

[Begin Del Rosario recording] We ourselves are well on our way to going back, as you know, to the voluntary credit markets of the world, and therefore, we're not really looking for debt relief per se at this point. [end recording]

The country became eligible to reenter the international credit market when it proved to an advisory committee of foreign banks this year that it is able to manage its foreign debts more effectively.

Secretary Del Rosario said an American investment mission is now in the country to look into investment opportunities—proof, he said, of the keen interest of investors. However, there is concern about peace and order.

[Begin Del Rosario recording] We told them about the efforts of our president and of the PACC [Presidential Anti-Crime Commission] to solve the situation, but I guess from their point of view, it remains to be seen whether these efforts will bear fruit or not. But we assured them that the government is determined to create an environment that will be conducive to very heavy inflows of foreign investments. [end recording]

Ramos Describes Brunei Trip as 'Fruitful'

HK0610024092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 5 Oct 92

[Text] President Ramos will end his visit to Brunei Darussalam today. He has said that his trip has been fruitful in terms of benefits for the Philippines in business and other aspects of relations with Sultan Bolkiah Hassanal's country and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. President Ramos met with Sultan Hassanal for 30 minutes, during which the sultan promised to send Brunei officials to the Philippines to determine what kind of help his country can give. Hassanal also said that Brunei is interested in investing in oil and tourism in the Philippines. In this connection, Ramos offered Mindanao as the site for the industries Brunei wants to establish.

Minister To Seek Improved Trade With Burma

BK0610080292 Manila PNA in English 0639 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] Manila Oct. 6 (OANA/PNA)—The Philippines will seek better trade and investment relations with Myanmar [Burma] following a state visit by Myanmar's top economic managers headed by Brigadier General David Oliver Abel.

Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito revealed that the Philippines suffers a trade deficit with Myanmar.

In 1990, Philippine exports to Myanmar was only 55,000 U.S. dollars while imports reached a whopping 1.7 million U.S. dollars or a trade deficit of 1.645 million U.S. dollars.

Trade with Myanmar last year improved a little when the Philippines reduced its imports to $830,000 compared to its exports of $1,154.

Abel said that Myanmar's exports to the Philippines is comprised of hardwood, rice, peanuts, precious stones, soya beans, and mung beans.

Philippine exports to Myanmar, on the other hand, Habito said, are merely personal effects of leaving Myanmar officials.

Following the visit of Abel, who is the finance, trade, and economic planning minister of Myanmar, it was agreed that trade and investment ties with the Philippines would be increased.

Abel announced that Myanmar is interested in importing consumer items from the Philippines such as household goods, equipment, and steel wares.

Thailand

Asa Says U.S. Trade Sanctions Inappropriate

BK0510004592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Oct 92 p 1

[Text] Former foreign minister Asa Sarasin has warned that any trade retaliation against the newly-elected Chuan Government by the United States over copyrights protection would seriously affect the Thai-US relations.

"It would bring Thai-US relations to a new level of deterioration," Asa told THE NATION in an interview over the weekend.

His remarks came a week before the US Trade Representative is to announce whether Thailand's pharmaceutical patent protection is sufficient.

A ruling against Thailand would put the country on the so-called priority country watchlist under which the country is subject to trade retaliation under Section 301 of the US trade law.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday said he hoped the US would not consider taking any retaliatory measures against Thailand right after a newly-elected govemment came to power.

"I hope they (the US) are not that cruel," he told reporters before leaving for Brunei with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai.

The US has threatened to remove Thailand's exports from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). Thai exports to the United States account for 22 per cent of the country's total exports. Washington wants Thailand to urgently tackle the disputes with the US over intellectual property rights.

Asa, who served as foreign minister in both the Anan administrations, said the decision by the US Trade Representative, which has been moved up to Oct 9, will be a "test case" for Thai-US relations.

"This new government is the best elected government in 60 years of Thai democracy," Asa said. "It is not appropriate for the United States to do anything harmful to Thailand under such political circumstances... It could send a wrong signal to the new government and the Thai people."

Asa, who also served as Thailand' ambassador to Washington in the mid 1980s, said Thailand should cooperate with the US only on issues which are "mutually beneficial".

"We don't need the US to patronize us," he said.

Foreign Minister Prasong said he will need to discuss with officials from other related ministries on the situation before deciding how to respond to the US pressure.

US Ambassador to Thailand David Lambertson called on Prime Minister Chuan last week during which he urged the new government to quickly settle the disputes over intellectual copyright protectlon with the US to avert a potential trade retaliation.

Chuan was quoted as telling Lambertson that his government would consider the issue after it delivers its policy statement to the House by the middle of this month.

A senior Thai trade official said last week the US Trade Representative had brought forward by two days the announcement on whether Thailand's pharmaceutical patent protection is sufficient. The new ruling date is Oct 9.

The official claimed that the move was aimed at pressuring the Chuan administration to open trade negotiations with the US government over the issue.

Thai officials had been hoping that the US would give Thailand a "grace period" over the trade disputes to allow the new democratically-elected government to first take care of more urgent

Foreign Minister on Hostage Taking by Burmese

BK0710132792 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Speaking to reporters about Burmese soldiers who took a Thai district officer and other officials in Mae Hong Son Province hostage, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said he regards the incident as very important and has issued instructions on the matter. He said the Foreign Ministry has already contacted the Burmese Embassy so that the matter would be reported to Rangoon. As local officials have not been able to settle the problem, which would prolong a solution, the Thai ambassador in Rangoon has been instructed to directly contact Burmese officials to expedite a settlement.

On the Burmese soldiers' demand for the release of their colleagues, the foreign minister said he has no information on the matter, noting that current reports could cause a misunderstanding. He has contacted the Interior Ministry, which will verify the information with local officials. Asked if the arrests of Burmese fishermen would lead to border disputes, the foreign minister said the issue remains outstanding and noted that the finalization of accords on land and sea boundaries would help reduce the problem. He said most of the problems were caused by the confusion concerning border crossing.

boundaries, smuggling, and the existence of foreign forces in Thai territory. These confusions must be cleared up.

Asked whether the Foreign Ministry has a role to play in the discovery by members of the Border Patrol Police [BPP] of narcotics production force in Phet Buri Province, Prasong said the matter is under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry. He added the Foreign Ministry could only be involved only if the problem touches the border. He said he could not understand the way the BPP operates, noting that the BPP said it would take action 10 days ago but has so far done nothing. He said if action is delayed too long, the aforementioned force could escape. He urged that the action be taken soonest.

Regarding the arrest of members of the Wa rebels, Prasong said the Foreign Ministry has asked the military for information on the matter.

UNHCR Asked To Aid Lao Refugee Repatration

BK0710023892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Thailand early this month briefed United Nations High Commission for Refugees, or UNHCR, project administrative committee in Geneva on the situation concerning refugees and migrants in the country. Deputy Secretary General of the National Security Council Khachatphai Burutphat, as head of the Thai delegation, told representatives of over 80 countries at the meeting that some problems remained concerning the repatriation of Indochinese refugees due to various reasons.

For the Laotian refugees, Thailand asked UNHCR to allocate budget for the repatriation on a continuous basis. Reception centers will be gradually closed down, to be completed by the end of 1993.

For the Vietnamese refugees, a committee has been proposed to evaluate the program, especially the repatriation of the nonrefugees back to Vietnam.

Thailand expects to complete repatriation of Cambodians before the general election in March 1993. The Thai delegation calls for international assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Cambodia.

Chuan Says Decree Veto No Effect on Stability

BK0710143192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Text] Speaking to reporters after today's House session, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said that the rejection of the Amnesty and the Judicial Commission Executive Decrees by the House of Representatives today will not have any effect on the government's stability, adding that he has assigned ministers concerned to deal with any problems that may arise.

[Begin recording] [Chuan] I do not see any problem.

[Unidentified reporter] Did the parties discuss this matter before the House session?

[Chuan] All parties agreed since 22 March that they will not accept the decree. From now on, it is the duty of the government to solve the problem. I believe that if we do things openly, we will not encounter any problem. We will treat them according to their deeds.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you discussed the matter with the Armed Forces?

[Chuan] No, we have not discussed this issue. I believe that the Armed Forces understand us. I always say that it is the problem of individuals. The Armed Forces are not the wrongdoers. They have nothing to do with this matter. It is the problem of individuals. [end recording]

Government Reacts to Amnesty Decree Rejection

BK0810011192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Oct 92 p A1

[Text] The Interior Ministry will seek advice from the Juridical Council, the legal advisory board of the executive branch on whether the House rejection of the Amnesty Decree for all involved in the May crisis will revive legal action against them.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, meanwhile, side-stepped a question on whether he agreed with a suggestion by an MP in his Democrat party that the govemment might devise an amnesty bill to absolve only "sincere demonstrators" if it is ruled that legal action can be taken.

Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday that whether police would arrest people charged with legal offences during the May 17-21 political turbulence would depend on the ruling by the Juridical Council.

Pending the decision by the council, he said, authorities are ready to accept accusations from relatives of the slain demonstrators against then prime minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and the military leaders who ordered the fatal anti-riot operations.

The Juridical Council's rulings do not have legal standing. It is up to the govemment or a govemment agency to decide whether to follow its legal advice.

If the government considers that the scrapping of the controversial decree removes legal immunity against all those involved in the violence, several political leaders of the present coalition, including Phalang Tham's Maj Gen [Major General] Chamlong Simuang, Interior Minister Chawalit and Foreign Minister Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri, could face trial on charges of instigating unrest to overthrow the govemment.

At the same time, the generals could also face charges brought against them by relatives of the May suppression victims.

Prime Minister Chuan has said the government would stick to the law in solving the issue.

"Anybody who is found to be guilty must be dealt due legal punishment," he said.

But he said he was not sure which authority would deliver the final ruling on the legal question.

The Democrat Party previously decided that the issue should be resolved by the Constitution Tribunal, empowered under the Constitution to have the final interpretation on matters relating to the Constitution.

The legal question involves Article 172 which stipulates in part that activities conducted when an executive decree is enforced shall not be affected even if it is scuttled by Parliament afterwards.

Legal experts were divided over what the word "activities" means. One group of experts felt that the amnesty had already been granted and would not be affected by the rejection of the decree. The other contends that breaches of the law during the May events were activities conducted before the decree was issued on May 23.

Chuan said he had assigned Chawalit who is leader of coalition partner New Aspiration Party, to take care of the matter. But he had not discussed details with the minister.

Asked whether resumption of legal proceedings against Chamlong would affect the coalition's stability, Chuan said the government had to rule the country according to the law and could not be influenced by any effect on particular individuals.

"There is no ground to worry because we are trying to stick to the law and this is the most transparent way of running the country," he said.

Chuan said he did not consult with military leaders over the issue because he was sure that the Armed Forces would understand the govemment's action.

"As I have repeatedly said, we have to separate individuals' actions from the military as an institution. The Armed Forces have done nothing wrong and as for individual officers, we have to treat them according to facts. Whoever is found guilty has to be dealt with according to law," he said.

The prime minister declined to comment on a proposal by Democrat MP for Bangkok Aphisit Wetchachiwa that the government may come up with an amnesty bill which would single out "sincere demonstrators" as being the only group of people to be absolved.

"I have not given a thought to it as yet," he said.

Aphisit, during debate in the House yesterday on the executive decree, indicated that the government may propose such a bill if it was decided that the rejection of the decree would have "retroactive" effect on the amnesty that had been granted.

The Bangkok Democrat, considered a rising star in the new generation of politicians, said that the parties involved in the May incidents should be categorized into more than two groups, the people's side and the military side.

He said one party which should be given an amnesty under a new bill was the demonstrators who took to the streets in their sincere belief to promote democracy. This group could face legal action for violating the ban on rallies imposed under emergency rule.

Leaders of the demonstrations, including members of the coalition partners, he said, were ready to clear themselves in court.

Soldiers who were ordered to disperse the demonstrations would also escape legal punishment because they had acted on orders, Aphisit said.

But the military leaders who ordered the crackdown should not be allowed to escape their responsibility under the law if they committed any offences, he said, adding that the generals should also be given a chance to argue their cases in court.

Getting to the bottom of the issue to ensure justice for all, he said, should not be considered a move to revive national disunity.

Muanchon Party leader Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem Yubamrung, who took part in the debate for the opposition parties, asserted there was no need for a legal interpretation on the effects of the decree being abolished.

He said the govemment should immediately follow it up by taking legal action against anybody accused of breaking the law.

The legal offences were committed before the decree was announced and therefore they were not "activities" protected by the executive legislation, claimed Chaloem, a fommer police investigator.

The protected activities, he argued, were the failure by the police to take legal action as a result of the issuing of the decree. Otherwise, they could face legal action for failing to arrest suspects, Chaloem said.

Chaloem also raised objection to Aphisit's suggestion that an amnesty bill might be necessary to absolve "sincere demonstrators".

During a heated debate, Phalang Tham de facto leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang came under fire from opposition MPs who backed Suchinda during his brief rule last April and May for allegedly igniting the bloody crackdown.

Chamlong was absent because he has been visiting South Korea and will not return to Thailand until tomorrow.

Phalang Tham acting leader Suthep Atthakhon, asked about the Democrat's proposal for the Constitution Tribunal to rule on the issue, said it was an option which can be taken up by the executive branch.

The tribunal cannot initiate an interpretation by itself. It must be requested to do so by either the prime minister, MPs or the court.

Opposition Urges Further Constitution Changes

BK0810012592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Oct 92 p A2

[Text] The opposition parties, whose members had attempted to delay four major constitutional amendments, which contributed to the May protests, yesterday submitted a motion calling for further changes to the Constitution.

The Chat Thai, Chat Phatthana, Prachakon Thai and Seritham parties jointly submitted the motion which seeks a special House committee to sort out all "undemocratic elements" in the Constitution .

The Chat Phatthana and Seritham parties were formed to contest the Sept 13 election, but most of their members defected from partners of the military-backed Suchinda administration.

When demonstrators against nonelected prime minister Suchinda Khraprayun took to Ratchdamnoen Avenue for the first time early May, the then government parties agreed to join the opposition to amend the Constitution.

But when the protests were called off as a consequence, the parties indicated they would reverse their decision, leading to renewed rallies which then escalated and culminated in troops being ordered to open fire on the demonstrators.

Following the May bloodshed, the Constitution was amended to require that the prime minister be an elected MP, to give the parliamentary presidency to the House speaker and reduce the role of the appointed Senate to the scrutinization of legislation only.

The fourth amendment allows debate on non-legislative issues in the second half of year.

"The Opposition sees that the Constitution still contains many articles which are against the development of democracy, " Chat Thai MP Songsuk Pakkhasem told reporters yesterday after submitting the motion.

"It was wrong in the first place that those affected by the Constitution could not take part in its drafting."

The Constitution was drafted by a committee set up by the military junta following last year's coup. It was later passed by the interim legislature also established by the junta.

"The House should change constitutional articles, which are undemocratic, so they are truly beneficial to the people," said the motion, which was signed by Chat Thai leader Praman Adireksan and 6 other MPs from the four parties.

Chat Phatthana deputy leader Niphon Wisityutthasat said that the Constitution should guarantee the decentralization of administrative power, if possible.

Human Rights in Foreign Policy Issue Considered

BK0510014792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Oct 92 p A6

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon: "Human Rights in Thai Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The democratically inspired Chuan government ought to consider the issue of human rights as a factor in formulating the country's foreign policy.

Some critics might argue it is hypocritical for the country, which has just been through one of its most traumatic political crises—the May bloodshed—to speak out for the protection of human rights, let alone use it as a diplomatic tool.

They say Thailand has to put its house in order before it ventures outside.

Lest Thailand forget, two US-based human rights organizations on last Thursday called on the new Thai government to pursue investigations into the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in May and step up efforts to find the people who went missing.

In the Cabinet meeting of the Anan government on Sept 10, the government agreed to accede to the 1966 International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, the second Asean country to do so after the Philippines which is also a country that has suffered much political turmoil.

In the near future, Thailand is also planning to sign the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Discussions with senior Foreign Ministry officials over the weekend revealed ambiguities about Thailand's real purposes in acceding to the human rights' protection convention.

One common answer seems to be the improvement of the well-being of the Thai people so they can enjoy all the rights of a free people without discrimination and to prevent any recurrence of past atrocities. "The Thai people deserve all the best of rights," one official commented.

Others were more sanguine in admitting accession to international conventions on the protection of human rights would boost Thailand's image in the international community, especially coming after the May bloodshed.

Thailand's move is understandable as it wants to accede to the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights at the Second World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna next June.

In addition, many Western countries have already linked the issue of human rights and democracy with their development assistance and economic relations. Despite objections by Thailand as well as other Asean countries to such a tendency, Thailand has adjusted itself quietly to avoid any possible deprivation of aid. "Our country is basically free, so it is not difficult," said a senior Foreign Ministry official.

Be that as it may, Thailand still needs to look to the future when projecting the country into the world. Thailand needs to observe international standards of decency and democracy, be they in protecting human rights or in running the democratic parliamentary system.

In the government of Chuan Likphai, Thailand has reached an historic juncture with pro-democracy forces having prevailed against all odds. With such momentum, Thailand can start to enshrine human rights and democratic elements into its foreign policy with the aim of making them permanent features in years to come.

Having said that, it does not mean Thailand, which still has lots of problems relating to fundamental rights has to demand human rights' protection in neighbouring countries or that they adopt measures being employed in Thalland.

In the past, Thai authorities have declined to say anything about the situation in neighbouring countries and Asean. They view public statements of such comments and views as interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Since the dark cloud over us has passed, Thailand can speak frankly about these matters. Thailand can and should take a clear stand in calling for better observance and protection of basic human rights in less fortunate countries. This would show Thailand's commitment to its own people and others.

For example, take the situation in Burma. Thailand must not ignore the pro-democratic elements which have been suppressed by the military regime there. It was bad enough that Thailand played an important role in propping up and legitimizing the regime in Rangoon economically and diplomatically.

Indeed, Thailand is caught in a big dilemma over Burma. On one hand Thai leaders would like to convince themselves their policy of "constructive engagement" will, in the long run, lead to the the release of Nobel peace prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi who is under house arrest. They also hope the Burmese junta will eventually have to change to catch up with the rest of the region and world.

On the other hand, they have admitted there is nothing they or, for that matter, any other country can do to influence strong man Gen Ne Win, the real figure of power in Rangoon, to democratize Burma.

How can Thailand expect the Rangoon junta leaders, who refused to heed the voice of their citizens in the election, to respond to the wishes of Thailand or Asean?.

Certainly, Thailand has much to do at home but at the same time we must be forthright with countries which violate human rights.

Both the Anan governrnent and the Chuan government have shown a genuine desire to end the abuse of power by the military or powers-that-be. Former prime minister Anan Panyarachun did much to respond to the public will to see the power of military curbed.

Under such unique circumstances as Thailand currently enjoys, the new government must have the courage to integrate the human rights protection as part of its evolving foreign policy.

Minister Supports Freer Competition in Markets

BK0610045792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Oct 92 p B28

[Text] The policy of promoting freer competition in financial markets will be continued, Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin said yesterday.

Mr Tharin was speaking after his first meeting with the ministry's departmental heads, when he was briefed on the structure and policies of each department.

He said his policy is to allow market mechanisms to perform freely as much as possible in various areas, allowing floating interest rates and floating foreign exchange with the aim of increasing competition.

The ministry will develop new financial markets, improve the quality of existing markets, and introduce new and more efficient financial instruments.

Mr Tharin said: "These changes were begun a few years ago, particularly through the Bangkok International Banking Facilities (BIBF) which provide more opportunity for foreign participation. However, I think more incentives should be provided and regulations relaxed."

Asked if this includes the opening of branches of foreign banks in Thailand, Mr Tharin said the issue must be carefully considered. Thailand is ready to comply with the GATT's ruling, he said.

The issue of liberalisation of trade in services is being discussed. This includes banking, and if the GATT rules that member countries should be more open to the participation of foreign banks, Thailand will obey the rullng.

Financial instruments will be used to distribute income to people in the provinces. The financial management of the Government will be decentralised.

The Government will encourage long-term saving, which is considered important to the improvement of people's living conditions.

New promotional measures will be introduced, including tax incentives to promote savings and the formation of new provident funds.

This will include both long-term savings and savings for specific purposes, such as for education or house purchase .

He said an urgent task of the Finance Ministry is to prepare a budget bill for parliamentary consideration as soon as possible. The government sector has been acting according to last year's budget because the bill has not been passed by the Parliament since the Suchinda Government.

The old proposed bill fixed the government budget at 550,000 million baht, which Mr Tharin said will need to be reviewed by the ministry.

The first meeting to consider the budget bill is scheduled for this Friday, and it is expected to be ready for a first reading within ten days of that meeting.

Meanwhile, Mr Tharin said he will continue to support the planned establishment of a new financial institution responsible for promoting exports, such as the Export-Import Bank (Exim Bank), which has long been delayed.

Regarding the capital market, Mr Tharin said he will stress the improvement of quality and will act in accordance with the framework of the Securities Exchange Commission.

BOT Wants Balanced Budget, Fiscal Conservatism

BK0710035992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Oct 92 p A2

[Text] The Bank of Thailand [BOT] yesterday maintained that the new government must stick to the balanced budget policy set down by recent administrations and not sacrifice long-term economic stability by additional spending in the short term.

Central bank spokesman Phisit Li-atham described the Bt550 billion balanced budget approved by the previous Anan government as suitable.

Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin, in a separate interview, denied the budget for 1993 would be raised by Bt20 billion.

"The Cabinet has not discussed raising the budget by Bt20 billion.

"I only saw that in the newspapers," he commented.

Tharin will hold a meeting on Friday with officials from the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Bank of Thailand, the Budget Bureau and the Fiscal Policy Office to discuss possible revisions to the Bt550 billion budget.

The minister has hinted that part of the Bt200 billion fiscal reserve surplus might be used in areas including infrastructure, environment, and education.

Tharin is under increasing pressure to boost the 1993 budget spending as members of the Chuan Cabinet are looking for funds to support new projects.

But Phisit said it would be contrary to the principle of budget setting to raise the amount for particular projects.

Instead, the aggregate amount should first be set and allocations made accordingly.

He said that even if the budget was raised less than one percent and there was no impact on inflation or the economy in general, the move would still be a reversal of the balanced budget policy of the past three years.

Thailand has had a surplus budget over the past five years.

A budget deficit, he said, would not reflect well on Thailand's standing in the eyes of the international community.

The additional spending would mean more money supply in the economy which would be hard to absorb.

Phisit also cited as an example the time when Dr Amnuai Wirawan was finance minister and a budget deficit of Bt20 billion was set but later swelled to Bt40 billion.

He noted that the Bt55O billion expenditure budget was likely to be met by equal revenue based on economic growth of about eight per cent.

If the budget is raised with the expectation of higher revenue to match it, the anticipation might be unrealistic.

The central banker said the balanced budget is sound policy given that the country is facing an investment-savings gap.

If a budget deficit is planned then the govemment will have to borrow, leading to a "crowd out" effect and pressure on interest rates to rise.

"Such a problem can be witnessed in the US and Europe," he said.

A balanced budget will also assure investors that the government would not resort to tax increases, Phisit said.

He reiterated that the Bt200 billion fiscal surplus reserve is still small in proportion to the government's local debts of BtlOO billion, foreign debts of Bt200 billion and the debts of state enterprises amounting to Bt200 billion.

Tharin said the 1993 budget is the most urgent task of the new government after the drafting of its policy statement.

He hinted that some revision might be necessary to bring the budget into accord with the policies of the new government.

"A conclusion can be expected within 10 days," he said.

A source from the Budget Bureau said it could be difficult to raise the budget since the Finance Ministry had cut many taxes.

The following is the break-down [of] figures of the 1993 budget approved by the Anan administration:

Defence Ministry: Bt79.57 billion; Finance Ministry: Bt66.64 billion; Agriculture Ministry: Bt43.35 billion; Transport and Communications Ministry: Bt36.08 billion; Commerce Ministry: Bt3.36 billion; Interior Ministry: Bt80.75 billion; Justice Ministry: Bt1.73 billion; Science and Technology Ministry: Bt8.12 billion; Education Ministry: Bt88.19 billion; Public Health Ministry: Bt31.40 billion; Industry Ministry: Bt32.28 billion; University Affairs Ministry: Bt 19.32 billion; State enterprises Bt 15.78 billion; Funds and revolving funds: Bt7.91 billion; and others: Bt3.15 billion.

Vietnam

Hanoi Criticizes U.S. Trade Embargo Decision

BK0610122392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Duong Quang Minh commentary]

[Text] It appears that the U.S. Administration has decided to continue to pursue its old policy of enforcing an embargo against Vietnam. Everyone knows that the U.S. embargo against Vietnam has lasted for 28 years, since 1964 when the United States made a massive deployment of expeditionary forces into South Vietnam and used its air and naval forces to launch fierce air strikes against North Vietnam.

The United States has further tightened the grip of the embargo since 1975 when the Vietnamese people won victory in their liberation war and achieved national unification. More seriously, the U.S. embargo order became much tougher when the Vietnamese people helped the Cambodian people rise up to overthrow the Pol Pot genocidal yoke.

Looking back over the history of the issue, one can comprehend the unjust nature of a policy to create obstacles for an independence- and freedom-loving people who have struggled tirelessly for the right cause. History also shows that despite the U.S. Administration's continued pressure on Vietnam, the Vietnamese people will continue to make steady headway along the path they themselves have chosen. It should be affirmed here that the Vietnamese people have always advocated friendly coexistence with all nations, including the American people, on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and for peaceful coexistence.

At present the renovation undertaking now being pursued by the Vietnamese people is helping to broaden their greater cooperation with nations on all five continents. Many countries have also said that it is time for trade cooperation with Vietnam. This is in their own interests and in the interests of the Vietnamese people and of peace and security in Southeast Asia and the world over.

The fact that the U.S. Administration has extended its embargo against Vietnam by another year clearly runs counter to the above trend. The United States hopes that it will benefit from exercising its economic and technological pressure against Vietnam. But realities show that it is doing the opposite. Far from benefitting from its move to cause difficulties for Vietnam, the United States has suffered considerable losses. This has been confirmed by many U.S. statesmen and businessmen.

A U.S. senator recently said that the Vietnam war is over, that Cambodia has achieved its Paris peace accords, and that Vietnam has shown its goodwill toward resolving the POW-MIA issue. The question is whether there are any other reasons to classify Vietnam as a hostile country. Although the United States continues its embargo against Vietnam, it is time for other countries to not comply with this embargo. The U.S. Administration should change its stance. The senator argued that the United States is now the only country to continue a trade embargo against Vietnam while U.S. opponents are entering the promising Vietnamese market. The United States' deliberate move to alienate Vietnam amounts to economic and political suicide.

In recent testimony concerning a proposal to lift the U.S. embargo against Vietnam organized by the Foreign Trade and Foreign Economic Policies Subcommittee and the Asia-Pacific Economic Subcommittee under the U.S. House Foreign Relations Committee, those attending concluded that Vietnam's renovation undertaking has become increasingly effective and is drawing the attention of the world community. Doing business with Vietnam at this time is necessary and we should not hesitate to do this. Whoever is slow will suffer.

It is also observed by U.S. industrial and trade companies operating in Southeast Asia that the United States has an advantage over various sectors such as energy exploitation, civil aviation, and telecommunications. By not doing business with Vietnam the United States will lose out against its economic rivals such as Japan and Western Europe.

Vietnam's attitude is crystal-clear. We hope and are striving to normalize Vietnamese-U.S. relations. But we will not tolerate any pressure. The U.S. Administration's decision to extend its trade embargo against Vietnam for another year shows a lack of goodwill and a move unsuitable to the present international situation.

Spokesman: PRC Still Holding Ships in Tonkin

BK0810121492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] HANOI, Oct 8 (AFP)—Vietnam's National Assembly called Thursday for a negotiated settlement of

territorial disputes with China, but stressed that the Vietnamese people were prepared to defend their sovereign territory.

The Foreign Ministry meanwhile reported that China was still holding a number of Vietnamese freighters and continuing oil explorations in disputed waters of the Tonkin Gulf, despite appeals from Hanoi.

"We are determined to firmly maintain the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our county," National Assembly Speaker Nong Duc Manh said in a speech marking the close of the parliamentary session.

"We are for the settlement of disputes through negotiations and on the basis of respect for international law and customs."

"While awaiting a reasonable solution, the countries should show restraint, avoiding acts likely to complicate the situation and interfere with the negotiating process," he said

China and Vietnam normalized diplomatic relations in November 1991 after a 13-year freeze and agreed to resolve their longstanding territorial differences through peaceful negotiations.

But Hanoi says Beijing has complicated the situation since then by reinforcing its claim to the Spratly Islands, authorizing oil exploration in disputed waters of the South China Sea and Tongkin Gulf, and seizing Vietnamese freighters heading home from Hong Kong.

Chinese oil exploration vessels that set out for the Tonkin Gulf in August "have not pulled out of Vietnamese territorial waters," the spokesman said in response to a question from AFP.

"We hope that the Chinese side quickly settles the problem and that it does not complicate the situation."

The spokesman also urged China to release the Vietnamese freighters it still held and return all the cargos it confiscated.

He did not say how many vessels were being held, but on September 16 a Vietnamese official said at least nine of 19 vessels seized since June 23 were still being held along with some 180 crewmen.

China ostensibly seized the ships to prevent their cargos of cars, electronics and other valuable merchandise from being smuggled into China through Vietnam, but the raids drew protests from London as well as Hanoi.

"We are continuing contacts on this matter. We hope that the problems will be settled in a reasonable manner."

The spokesman said a delegation of experts would travel to Beijing "soon" for talks on territorial disputes, as agreed during the visit here last month of Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin.

Vice Premier at PRC National Day Reception

BK0110154392 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 1—Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei and his wife gave a reception here this evening on the occasion of the 43rd National Day of the People's Republic of China (Oct. 1).

Among their gueste were Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong, Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, Deputy Head of the External Relations Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Pham Van Chuong, and members of the dipomatic corps and international organisations in Hanoi.

Speaking at the reception, Ambassador Zhang Dewei and Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong expressed their joy at the great achievements recorded by the Chinese people in their national construction, particularly in ten years of implementing the reform and open-door policy, and the important success recorded by the Vietnamese people in renovation and in socioeconomic development.

Host and guest proposed toasts to the traditional friendship between the two peoples and to the consolidation and development of the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and China.

Oil Prospecting Agreement Signed With Japanese

BK0610154192 Hanoi VNA in English 1348 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 6—Mr. Ho Si Thoang, general director of the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation (Petrovietnam), and Mr. Kikuo Yamada, president of the Mitsubishi Oil Company of Japan, signed here today an oil product-sharing contract at Lot 15-2 on the continental shelf of Vietnam.

This is the fourth product-sharing contract which Petrovietnam signed with Japanese companies and the 21st with foreign companies. Mitsubishi will open an office in Ho Chi Minh City and begin its work next year.

Foreign Investment Project Licenses Reported

BK0410141392 Hanoi VNA in English 1336 GMT 4 Oct 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 4—In the first eight months of this year 107 foreign invested projects were licensed to operate in the country, bringing to 472 the total number of such projects approved by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCKI) since late 1987 when Vietnam first introduced its law on foreign investment.

Legal capital of the new projects totals 995 million dollars as compared with an estimated sum of 1,200 million dollars approved in the whole of last year.

Thus, 3,764 million dollars in legal capital has been registered since 1987.

Of all the registered projects, however, 61, with a total legal sum of 342 million dollars, have ceased operation because their licenses have expired or have been withheld.

Worthy of note was that the January-August period has 22 projects wholly owned by foreign investors as against 25 similar projects approved in the five years from 1987 to 1991.

Six of the new projects are for offshore oil prospection. These joint ventures have a combined legal capital of 383.2 million dollars, accounting for 38 percent of the newly registered sum.

Partners from South Korea and Taiwan form most of the 24 joint undertakings in food processing and other light industries, which have a total legal capital of almost 100 million dollars.

Projects in manufacturing include a joint venture for motorcycles, with a legal capital of 55 million dollars, and a cement plant on the central coast involving an initial sum of 31 million dollars.

Reportage on Ninth National Assembly Continues

Commmunique on 5 Oct Proceedings

BK0510153392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 5 Oct 92

["Communique No. 11 of Ninth National Assembly First Session"]

[Text] On 5 October, the National Assembly held a plenary session at the Conference Hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

In the morning, the National Assembly continued to discuss the draft law on the People's Organ of Control Organization. Later, Vu Mao, chief of the National Assembly Secretariat, authorized by the National Assembly chairman and on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, the Committee for the Drafting of the Law on the People's Courts Organization, and the National Assembly's Standing Jurisdiction Committee, presented the compiled opinions of National Assembly deputies and the full text of the revised draft law of the People's Courts Organization.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly discussed the revised draft law on the People's Courts organization. The National Assembly decided on some issues of the draft law. It also instructed the National Assembly Secretariat, the Committee for the Drafting of the Law on the People's Courts Organization, and the National Assembly's Standing Jurisdiction Committee to continue to solicit opinions from deputies for a further revision of the draft law before presenting it to the next National Assembly sitting for approval.

Afterward, Nguyen Van Yeu, member of the National Assembly Secretariat, authorized by the National Assembly chairman and on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, the Committee for the Drafting of the Law on the People's Organ of Control Organization, and National Assembly's Standing Jurisdiction Committee, presented the compiled opinions of the National Assembly deputies and full text of the revised draft law on the People's Organ of Control Organization. The National Assembly discussed the revised draft law on the People's Organ of Control Organization.

6 Oct Morning Proceedings Noted

BK0610060292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Text] This morning, the first session of the Ninth National Assembly continued in session at the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

The National Assembly continued to contribute its views on the revised draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control. There were 14 deputies who aired their views, which were centered on the need to have a mechanism to supervise the operations of the People's Organ of Control. The majority of the deputies did not agree with the wording of the draft law on the operational procedures of the People's Organ of Control, pointing out that it is necessary to clearly define the supervisory mechanism for the operations of the People's Organ of Control. Other deputies proposed that this draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control not be passed at this National Assembly session.

Comrade Le Thanh Dao, a deputy from Ha Tay Province and chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, delivered a speech in which he said all the views expressed by the National Assembly deputies would be taken into account in continued efforts to revise this draft law. As there were many debatable suggestions, the National Assembly decided to temporarily suspend debates over the draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control so as to have time to rectify the wording of this draft law.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will continue in session at the conference hall.

Correspondent Reviews Proceedings

BK0710140392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 Oct 92

[Unidentified station correspondent's review of 6 Oct National Assembly proceedings]

[Summary] Dear friends: This morning, 6 October, the National Assembly deputies continued to contribute their views on the draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control.

"As was reported, this draft law has been rectified. Of the 40 articles in the old draft law, 38 have been revised and two more added, namely Articles 7 and 11. Thus, the revised draft law has a total of 10 chapters with 42

articles. However, this revised draft law failed to win the approval of the entire National Assembly. At yesterday afternoon's sitting, the deputies continued to contribute their views on the revised draft law. The majority of them expressed their dissatisfaction at the wording of the revised draft law."

Mr. Hoang Ngoc Nhat, a deputy from Thanh Hoa Province, said "the wording of the law was not carefully prepared by the National Assembly Judicial Committee."

"As there were many issues to be debated and agreed on, the National Assembly reserved this morning's sitting for the continuation of the debate over the draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control.

"There were 14 delegates expressing their views with 12 of them disagreeing with the draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control. There was much discussion on Point 4 of Article 7. At previous sittings, a number of deputies proposed that Point 4 should clearly point out that local people's organs of control have the responsibility to report on their activities rather than on the law enforcement situation in the relevant localities, and that local people's organs of control should be placed under the supervision of the people's councils at the corresponding level. The session secretariat explained that the draft law in this case, is correct in quoting the Constitution's Article 140, that the procurators of local people's organs of control have the responsibility to report to the relevant people's councils on the local law enforcement situation and to answer questions raised by people's councillors. The secretariat asked the National Assembly to approve this point." However, at yesterday afternoon's sitting and this morning, "the deputies did not agree on the above proposal."

Deputy Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu from Tien Giang Province, Deputy Tran Huu Lich from Ho Chi Minh City, Deputy Ma Dien Thu from Binh Thuan Province, Deputy Do Phuong from Nghe An Province, and others called for clearly pointing out in the draft law that "local people's organs of control have the responsibility to report on their activities and should be placed under the supervision of the people's councils at the corresponding level." They claimed that "this is the only way we can avoid the abuse of power by the people's organs of control."

In view of uncertainty in deciding on the responsibility of local people's organs of control, Deputies Ma Dien Cu from Binh Thuan and Tran Thi Le Thu from Binh Dinh suggested that the National Assembly "not vote for the passage of the draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control at this session and to keep it for further discussion at the next session."

Next, in his speech, Deputy Le Thanh Dao, chief procurator of the People's Organ of Control, thanked deputies for their views and pointed out that "so far, activities of the people's organs of control at all levels have been subjected to the control and supervision of the relevant local administration." He said "the drafting organ for the law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control will take into account all the suggestions of the dpeuties and will continue to rectify Point 4 of Article 7 of the draft law dealing with the supervision of the activities of the people's organs of control."

Afterward, as there were still many suggestions to be debated, the presidium of the National Assembly session decided to temporarily suspend the debates on the draft law on the organization of the People's Organ of Control so as to have time to rectify it.

At this afternoon's sitting, the deputies heard the reading of the text of the revised draft law on the organization of the People's Court and then "voted to pass the law."

"The National Assembly will continue their session tomorrow at the conference hall."

Communique on 6 Oct Proceedings

BK0610152192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Oct 92

["Communique No. 12 of the Ninth National Assembly's First Session"]

[Text] On the morning of 6 October, the National Assembly held a plenary meeting at the Conference Hall in Hanoi. Comrade Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly directed the meeting.

The National Assembly continued its discussion on the revised draft Law on the Organization of the Supreme People's Organ of Control. Afterward, the National Assembly decided to charge the National Assembly Secretariat, the drafting committee of this law, and the National Assembly Judiciary Committee with the task of soliciting ideas from National Assembly deputies to further revise this draft law before it is submitted to the National Assembly at its next session.

In the afternoon proceedings, National Assembly deputies held group discussions on the revised Draft Law on Land.

In the evening, the National Assembly resumed its plenary meeting at the Conference Hall under the direction of Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly heard Vu Mao, chief of the National Assembly Secretariat—on behalf of the National Assembly chairman, the National Assembly Secretariat, the drafting committee of the Law on the Organization of the People's Court, and the National Assembly Judiciary Committee—report on the compilation of ideas from National Assembly deputies and read the text of the revised Draft Law on the Organization of the People's Court. Afterward, the National Assembly passed the Law on the Organization of the People's Court.

7 Oct Proceedings Reported

BK0810075992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Oct 92

[Report by unidentified station correspondent on the 7 October proceedings of the first session of the Ninth National Assembly in Hanoi—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: Today, the National Assembly continued its work at the conference hall.

In the early part of the morning, the National Assembly heard a report by Comrade Ly Tai Luan, member of the meeting secretariat, summing up the views presented by National Assembly deputies during the debate on the government's report on the socioeconomic situation in the past nine months, measures for implementation of the socioeconomic plan until the end of 1992, and measures that have been advanced in preparation for 1993.

The report said that almost all deputies had endorsed the report of the government and welcomed its program of action presented to the National Assembly by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. The deputies also pointed out that although our socioeconomic situation has undergone many positive changes, our country is still facing fierce challenges and serious difficulties, and that it is necessary for the government to concentrate the efforts of all sectors, echelons, and localities on overcoming difficulties and creating positive factors for the advancement of the country.

They urged the government to focus its work on a number of pressing issues as follows:

—Regarding agriculture, policies must be formulated to help bolster the prices of farm products so that the sector exporting these products can outline programs for afforestation and against the destruction of forests. A center must be set up to manage capital for the settlement of nomads and a program must be mapped out for solving the problem of employment in rural areas. It is also necessary to review the application of the contract system—that is based on the Political Bureau's resolution No. 10—and the present model of rural development.

—Regarding industrial production, attention must be paid to developing key industries in every region and actively managing all business establishments. A program must also be outlined for the protection of the country's natural and mineral resources.

—Regarding the construction of the 500-kv north-south power grid, it is necessary to determine clearly how much investment capital is needed for this project. We should not pare away funds for investment in capital construction in various localities just because of the 500-kv powerline.

The National Assembly deputies laid special stress on the need to struggle against smuggling and corruption and to formulate policies for the protection of local goods. They also pointed out the need for the National Assembly to draw the government's attention to a series of acute problems in the cultural, educational, scientific, technical, and medical domains, including the problem of wage for laborers. They said:

Report on the situation of social security is still not in accordance with realities as social vices are on the increase. It is necessary to review the implementation of Resolution No. 22 of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and Decision No. 72 of the government on mountainous regions and compatriots of various nationalities. Special attention should be paid to national defense and security tasks.

Authorized by the prime minister of the government, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai presented a supplement report to the National Assembly on a number of socioeconomic issues in the past nine months and some policies and measures aimed at fulfilling the 1992 plan and preparing for 1993.

Regarding agricultural production, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai reported further on the rice exporting situation. He said: Based on the actual output of several rice crops this year, the government has decided to increase the grain exporting quota. This is also aimed at helping to bolster the prices of grain in the central and northern regions, where rice prices are falling.

The government has begun importing enough materials for agriculture and has spent more money on purchasing sufficient urea and nitrate fertilizer from the Ha Bac nitrate fertilizer plant to keep in reserve. Meanwhile, it continues opening additional markets for export farm products and giving assistance to peasants by granting them loans for use as capital in the development of production and business activities. Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said:

[Phan Van Khai] "It has been pointed out in the report on the socioeconomic situation during the past nine months that there are many issues that must be solved uniformly in order to carry out agricultural and rural economic development. We agree unanimously with the comrade deputies that the question that has been raised in our rural areas and agriculture at present is how to stabilize the situation of land and ricefields and how to formulate a credit policy for the rural areas to assist peasants, especially poor peasants.

"We must have policies for the promotion of agricultural production, the marketing of products, and the subsidization of prices of farm products. We must also renovate various state-run organizations and cooperatives in the agricultural sector.

"The government is currently directing work in preparation for the convening of a national conference on agriculture late this year or early next year. This is aimed at summing up the real state of our agriculture in recent

years, especially since the application of the contract system based on the Party Central Committee Political Bureau's resolution, as well as at solving all the problems arising from agricultural development in recent years, thus further developing our agricultural production and improving the livelihood of our peasants."

In the second part of his report, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai further clarified the reduction of staff in administration sector and the employment service. He said that the public health and education service sectors are allowed to adjust staff internally and the guideline of reducing 20 percent of staff is not applied in these sectors.

As regards the salary of cadres and state workers, the government is improving it step by step to guarantee that commodity price is not increased and make sure that the real value of salary is not lower than that of 1991. Regarding mountainous areas, he informed that in the past years, investment capital per head to some mountainous provinces has been higher than provinces in mainlands and central highlands.

Then Comrade Phan Van Khai went on with pressing issues such as electricity rate and electricity rate subsidy, financial and monetary policies, foreign investment projects, and so forth. Finally, he stressed:

[Phan Van Khai] "The National Assembly deputies have profoundly analyzed the severe impact of corruption and goods smuggling as well as very limited results from the struggling against these activities as they were mentioned in the report on socioeconomic situation in the last nine months and the government's program of actions. The government has determinedly dealt with these problems and the first prime minister's directive in this official term is on the work of market management and antismuggling and corruption. However, fighting against goods smuggling and corruption as well as the guiding of economic activities under the motto of living and working by the laws is the undertaking of the entire state mechanism, including the legislation, administration, and judiciary organs in all levels and sectors. They should closely coordinate with mass organizations and public movements under the leadership of the party. The government is to share a greater responsibility but other offices of state organ and political system must also heighten their responsibility.

"About other issues mentioned by the deputies, the government and ministries are considering and will fully report in the 1993 planning. Nevertheless, we need to note that in the last nine months and in remaining months of this year, we have solved and we will continue to deal with all issues of socioeconomy, security, national defense, and so forth in the background that our economy is not out of crisis and inflation yet.

"Everybody can say that at present, a lot of our people have been building and renovating their houses. But they have not invested much in production. We suggest that in the future, we will supplement and concretize more regulations to strongly encourage the capacity of all economic sectors in savings and investment for the development of our economy.

"We will apply flexible policies to raise funds under the motto that the government and public work together. We will have separate policies to provide the poor and needy families with education and medical services. But in our country, if we do not solve the education and medical services by the method of government and public working together, these services will not improve greatly.

"We have to seek new opportunities to improve the investment environment for better attraction of external resources. That is the important point for the preparation of 1993 planning with higher demand in economic stabilization and development and people's life improvement."

On behalf of the National Assembly, Chairman Nong Duc Manh welcomed the statement of Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai. He also announced that the National Assembly will send the report of National Assembly deputies' compiled opinions on socioeconomic situation to ministries and government offices so that they can strictly apply measures to fulfill the 1992 planning and prepare for the 1993 planning.

After a break, Comrade Ha Manh Tri, deputy chief of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, reported on the planning to revise the draft law on the organization of the people's organ of control.

Then Comrade Nguyen Van Yieu, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat read the full text of the revised draft law on the organization of the people's organ of control. The deputies continued their discussion on the draft law.

This afternoon, the deputies voted to pass some points of the draft bill. Tomorrow afternoon, the National Assembly will hold its closing sitting for the first session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall.

Communique on 7 Oct Proceedings

BK0710151192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Oct 92

["Communique No. 13 of the Ninth National Assembly's First Session"]

[Text] On the morning of 7 October 1992, the National Assembly held a plenary session in the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Nguyen Ha Phan.

Authorized by the National Assembly chairman and on behalf of the secretariat of the session, Ly Tai Luan, a member of the secretariat, presented a report on the compilation of views contributed by National Assembly deputies from their group discussions on socioeconomic issues. Next, the National Assembly heard Deputy Prime

Minister Phan Van Khai, who presented a supplement report on some socioeconomic issues raised by the deputies.

Toward the end of the morning and afternoon proceedings, the National Assembly continued to debate on the draft law on organization of People's Organs of Control. Authorized by the National Assembly chairman and on behalf of the secretariat of the session, the Committee for the Drafting of the Law on Organization of People's Organs of Control, and the standing body of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee, Ha Manh Tri, chairman of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee, presented a report on the compilation of views contributed by the deputies. Next, Nguyen Van Yeu, member of the secretariat of the session, read the revised text of the draft law on the organization of People's Organs of Control. Afterward, the National Assembly discussed the revised text of this draft law.

8 Oct Morning Proceedings Noted

BK0810054192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 8 Oct 92

[Text] This morning the National Assembly continued its work at the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

The National Assembly continued to focus its debates on three issues, namely the organization of the people's organ of control, the enforcement of the law on the organization of the people's court, and the National Assembly's legislation program.

National Assembly deputies heard Comrade Nguyen Van Yieu read the full text of the law on the organization of the people's organ which had been rectified in accordance with their suggestions during the debate.

National Assembly deputies then voted to pass the National Assembly's resolution on the enforcement of the law on the organization of the people's court.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will hold its closing session at the conference hall.

Council of Ministers Issues Land Use Decision

BK0610121592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet has issued a decision on a number of policies and lines governing the use of empty land, bare hills, forest land, alluvial plains along coastal areas, and water surfaces. The decision, which comprises 20 articles, covers policies, lines, and ways to organize implementation.

The decision clearly points out: In implementing the socioeconomic development strategy until the year 2000, sectors and echelons should make use of different forms of activities to strongly mobilize all economic sectors to contribute their material resources and wisdom to the implementation of the various projects on the use of empty land, bare hills, alluvial plains along coastal areas, and water surfaces. Provinces all should formulate appropriate plans to ensure the full use of empty land and bare hills, if any. They should also work out population redistribution plans and participate in socioeconomic development projects in other localities.

As far as our country is concerned, in the next 10-15 years, we must basically cover bare hills with greenery, protect forests and the ecosystem from destruction, and make full use of empty land in mountain and midland regions, alluvial plains along coastal areas, and water surfaces to increase the volume of goods and materials in support of industrial production. Efforts must be made to basically complete the drive for settled life, settled farming, as well as to link economic growth with social development. Steps must be taken to stabilize, improve, and enhance the conditions of the material and spiritual life of compatriots in new economic zones and areas inhabited by ethnic minority people. Plans must be worked out to accumulate revenue for budget allocations, national defense, and security spending.

Press, Publishing Regulations for Army Issued

BK0610120792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Pursuant to a directive of the party Central Committee Military Commission, the Ministry of National Defense has made public regulations on the control of press and printing and publishing activities in the Vietnam People's Army [VPA]. The regulations have provided even basic-level army units with concrete guidelines. The party Central Committee Military Commission and the Ministry of National Defense have entrusted the Political General Department with the task of directly overseeing the implementation of these regulations by all Army units. They have also instructed the Ideology and Culture Department—which was formed from a merger of the Propaganda and Training Department and the Publishing Department—to assist the Political General Department in carrying out this task.

As a result of studies and investigations, the Political General Department has reorganized the Army press and publishing services in the direction of focussing on some specific domains of activities of seven Army press organs having a large readership throughout the country. These include the Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN, TAP CHI VAN NGHE QUAN DOI, the People's Army Radio and Television Network, the Military News Agency, the Army Film Enterprise, and the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Publishing House.

In this connection, applications for permits for four Army press organs have already been filed with the Ministry of Culture, Information, and Sports. In addition, the Political General Department has studied ways to direct the reorganization of printing and publishing

services to make sure that they operate more efficiently and comply strictly with state and Army regulations.

Steps have also been taken to further control the publication of books, newspapers, films, and other cultural products in the Army to prevent materials containing bad or harmful contents from reaching Army units.

The Political General Department has also provided guidance over the consolidation of libraries, as well as the close combination of these facilities with efforts to make arrangements for everyone at basic-level Army units to read newspapers, listen to the radio, watch television, and so forth, thus contributing to improving the quality of soldiers' spiritual lives and to promoting a culturally good environment in the entire Army.

'Bumper' Rice Harvest Reported in North

BK0210150492 Hanoi VNA in English 1413 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 2—According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, 80,350 ha of autumn rice has been harvested in the northern provinces.

The north is expected to have a bumper harvest this year and with higher yield than last year. The total output is estimated at some 4 million tonnes. Farmers in the provinces have also put 83,950 ha under winter crops, mainly maize and sweet potato.

Meanwhile, the southern provinces have reaped more than 1.1 million ha of summer-autumn rice, and sowed nearly 1.3 million ha with autumn rice, or an increase of more than 2 percent over the same period last year.

Agricultural Production Nationwide Updated

BK0610125992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] By 15 September 1992, the 10th-month rice crop in the northern provinces has basically been earing up. The early 10th-month rice has begun to ripen. Peasants have completed the rice harvest on 20,000 hectares of land, scoring a fairly high paddy yield. As for the crop of rice that was earing up by the end of August, the grains have all turned green and solid. The main crop of rice has uniformly been earing up. The late 10th-month rice is already in ear.

Generally speaking, as far as the northern provinces are concerned, this year, the 10th-month rice crop is developing well and is expected to yield a bumper harvest. Along with harvesting the late rice crop, peasants in the northern provinces are making active soil preparations in alluvial plains along river banks while at the same time speeding up the pace of the early rice harvest. All together, they have completed the winter crop planting on 40,000 hectares of land with corn being the main crop.

Also by 15 September, the southern provinces have completed the 10th-month rice transplanting on more than 1,123,000 hectares of land, thus fulfilling 80 percent of the transplanting target. Rice is developing at a normal speed. Peasants in the southern provinces have also completed the summer-fall rice harvest on 993,590 hectares of land, thus fulfilling more than 90 percent of the transplanting target. In the Mekong River Delta provinces alone, peasants have completed the rice harvest on 817,000 hectares of land.

At present, some 75,000 hectares of rice in the Mekong River Delta provinces are affected by brown planthoppers. As for the Central Trung Bo coastal provinces, as many as 5,000 hectares of rice are affected by nigrospora oryzae. In Quang Nam-Da Nang Province, approximately 1,000 hectares of rice have been destroyed by long-winged ground beetles. In Gia Lai and Kon Tum Provinces, as many as 300 hectares of rice have been destroyed by grasshoppers.

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